

PLANTS AS SOIL INDICATORS

Soil Type	Plant Indicators
Slightly Acid	Daisy (<i>Bellis perennis</i>), Dock (<i>Rumex spp.</i>), Horsetail (<i>Equisetum spp.</i>), Knotgrass (<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>), Sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosa</i>)
Very Acid	Cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla reptans</i>), Hawkweed (<i>Hieracium spp.</i>), Horsetails (<i>Equisetum spp.</i>), Knapweed (<i>Centaurea spp.</i>).
Slaty Soil	Shepherd's Purse (<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>), Glasswort/Marsh Smaphire – aka Russian Thistle – one of the Chenopodiaceae (<i>Salsola Kali</i>), Sea Plantain (<i>Plantago maritimo</i>), Sea Wormwood (<i>Artemisia maritama</i>)
Hard Plan	Wild Mustard and related Cruciferae
Weed of Cultivation	Chickweed (<i>Stellaria media</i>), Lamb's Quarters (<i>Chenopodium</i>), Plantains (<i>Plantago spp.</i>), Stinging Nettle (<i>Urtica urens</i>).
Dry Soils	Argimony (<i>Agrimonia Eupatoria</i>), Bush Broom (<i>Cystisus scoparius</i>), Dyers Greenwood/Broom (<i>Genista Tinctoria</i>), Mustard, Common Speedwell (<i>Veronica officinalis</i>), Rabbit's Foot Clover (<i>Yello Clover</i>), Sweet Clover (<i>Trifolium</i>), Spurge (<i>Euphorbia</i>) Silvery Cinquefoil, Thistle.
Sandy Soils	Broom(<i>Cystisus scoparius</i>), Goldenrod (<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>), Restharrow (<i>Ononis arvensis</i>), Wormwood (<i>Artemisia</i>), Yellow Toadflax (<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>).
Alkaline Soils	Wormwood (<i>Artemisia</i>).
Lime Stone Soils	Penny Cress, Field Madder (<i>Rubia tinctorum</i>), Treacle Mustard (<i>Erysimum cheranthoides</i>), Yellow Chamomile (<i>Anthemis tintoria</i>).

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Absence of Lime	Foxglove (<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>), Wild Pansy/Heartsease (<i>Viola tricolor</i>), Garden Sorrel (<i>Rumex</i>), Great Mullein (<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>), Broom
Potassium Rich Soils	Marsh Mallow (<i>Althaea officinalis</i>), Wormwood (<i>Artemisia</i>), Opium Poppy (<i>Papaver somniferum</i>), Fumitory (<i>Fumaris officinalis</i>) Red Clover.
Gypsum	Common Burdock (<i>Arctium lappa</i>).

Ref. 'Weeds and What they Tell' – Ehrenfried E.Pfeiffer
George Sovol 11/3/93