

Dog's Mercury - *Mercurialis perennis*



Description

Dog's mercury is a hairy, low lying plant with oppositely arranged, serrated, oval shaped leaves, set upon a single upright stem. Small, inconspicuous flowers emerge in spring, with male and female flowers on separate plants (dioecious).

The plant prefers basic to neutral, dry to moist soils in the shaded conditions of woods, and forms a key part of (typically ancient) W8, 9 and 12 communities, often carpeting large areas.. The species has increased its spread in modern times due to the decline in coppiced woodland. The plant is highly shade tolerant, and the darker conditions of less managed woodland in the UK has meant it has outcompeted other species.

Soil regimes

Soil reaction (R)	7
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Nitrogen availability (N)	7
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