

Ulex europaeus - Gorse



Plant description

Gorse is a sprawling, woody, spiky shrub growing up to 3m in height. The foliage consists of sharp, deeply grooved, evergreen spines. One of just a few native plants that flowers all year round. Has bright yellow flowers that provide a constant source of nectar for pollinators. Flowers are yellow and coconut scented. Odd in that it collects sunlight for photosynthesis in its long spiky thorns rather than leaves.

What does this tell me about my woodland?

The species prefers dry soils of poor nutrient availability, and is found in heathland, woodland edges and other scrub habitats.

pH – acidic to neutral

Occurs in NVC Communities – W23 and occasionally W16, W17, W25