

Kidney Vetch



Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*) has round clusters of small flowers that are mainly yellow but can also be orange and red. Each flower has its own hairy calyx giving the flower cluster a woolly appearance. The leaves are divided into narrow leaflets that are silky and white underneath.

Kidney Vetch is found on free draining calcareous soils on chalk and limestone grasslands, rocky outcrops and near the sea. Five sub species occur in the British Isles, three of which are native and the other two are recent introductions.

It provides food for a number of beetle and moth larvae but is the sole food plant for caterpillars of the Small Blue Butterfly.

Sowing Time: Autumn

