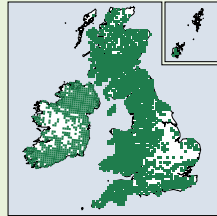




## Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage

*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*

Locally abundant. Damp, shady places, often on acid soils, including boggy woods, streamsides, cliffs and gullies; also springs and flushes in the hills. ☀ A creeping evergreen, may form extensive patches. The short-stalked leaves are in *opposite* pairs and the umbel-like heads of tiny greenish-gold flowers are surrounded by much larger yellow-green bracts. **DETAIL** Stems hairy, with leafy non-flowering runners that root at the lower nodes and more or less erect flowering stems. Leaves sparsely hairy to hairless, 5–20mm across, more or less rounded, tapering broadly into the stalk, the edges with shallow, blunt teeth. Flowers 3–5mm across, calyx 4-lobed, no petals but a wavy-edged, nectar-secreting disk around the ovary; 8 stamens, anthers golden-yellow, ovary/stigma relatively large, 2-lobed.

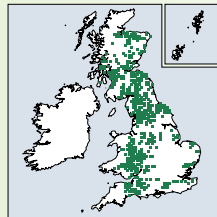


**GROWTH** Perennial.  
**HEIGHT** 5–15cm.  
**FLOWERS** Feb–Jun.  
**STATUS** Native.  
**ALTITUDE** 0–1100m.

## Alternate-leaved Golden Saxifrage

*Chrysosplenium alternifolium*

Scarcer and more local than Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage. Favours similar habitats, but usually where flushed by alkaline water, although the 2 species may occur together. ☀ Flowers slightly larger and brighter, basal leaves *long-stalked*, placed *alternately* on the stem. **DETAIL** Creeping, with leafless non-flowering runners. Flowering shoots with 2–5 sparsely hairy, basal leaves, 15–35mm across and more or less circular with the margins cut into square, shallow lobes and the base heart-shaped; leaf stalks up to 9cm long.



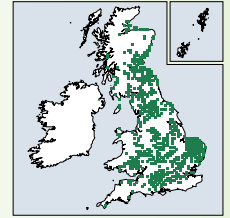
**GROWTH** Perennial.  
**HEIGHT** To 20cm.  
**FLOWERS** Apr–May.  
**STATUS** Native.  
**ALTITUDE** 0–915m.



## Meadow Saxifrage

*Saxifraga granulata*

Locally common in old grassland such as grassy banks, verges and churchyards, also unimproved pastures and meadows (but these are now scarce); sometimes in damp woodland and along shady riverbanks. Avoids very acid soils. ☀ The near-leafless flower stems, each with

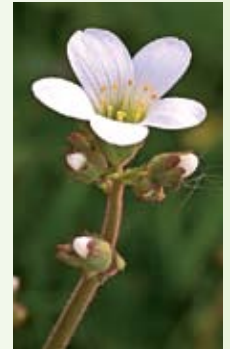


**GROWTH** Perennial.  
**HEIGHT** 10–30cm.  
**FLOWERS** Apr–Jun.  
**STATUS** Native.  
**ALTITUDE** 0–580m.



a loose cluster of 3–12 flowers, grow from a compact basal rosette. **DETAIL** Stems with abundant sticky glandular hairs. Basal leaves long-stalked, 5–30mm across, with shallow lobes and scattered hairs; stem leaves smaller and narrower with shorter stalks. The leaves die off after flowering. Flowers with 5 petals, 9–16mm long. Bulbils are produced in the axils of the rosette leaves.

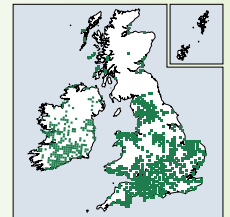
**SIMILAR SPECIES** Londonpride *S. × urbium* is common in gardens and one of a number of similar species that may escape and turn up in damp, shady places. It has fleshy, oblong-oval leaves, 20–30mm long, with numerous blunt teeth, and smaller flowers, the petals 4–5mm long, usually marked with red spots. **SEE ALSO** Greater Stitchwort (p. 162).



## Rue-leaved Saxifrage *Saxifraga tridactylites*



Locally common in sparse, open vegetation on thin, dry, often compacted and usually calcium-rich soils, on rocks, heaths and dunes, also walls, pavements, roofs and other man-made structures. Germinates in the late autumn, withering by midsummer. ☀ Small, sometimes tiny, with 3–5 lobed leaves and erect flower stems. The stem, leaves and calyx are often bright red and have many red-tipped glandular hairs. **DETAIL** Basal leaves spoon-shaped, c. 10mm across, but soon withering; stem leaves lobed. Flowers with 5 petals 2–3mm long, calyx bell-shaped. **SEE ALSO** Common Whitlowgrass (p. 139).



**GROWTH** Perennial.  
**HEIGHT** 10–50cm.  
**FLOWERS** Mar–May.  
**STATUS** Native.  
**ALTITUDE** 0–595m.

