

# Bluebell guide

Native or Spanish? How to tell the difference....



**Common or native bluebell**  
(*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)



**Spanish bluebell**  
(*Hyacinthoides hispanica*)

<b>Colour of flowers</b>	Deep violet-blue. A genetic mutation occasionally causes white flowers	Pale to mid-blue, often also white or pink
<b>Top of flower stem</b>	Droops or nods distinctly to one side	Stiff and upright
<b>Arrangement of flowers</b>	Almost all are on one side of the stem, hanging down to one side	Usually all the way round the stem, with the flowers sticking out
<b>Flower shape</b>	A narrow, straight-sided bell with parallel sides	A wide-open, almost cone-shaped bell
<b>Petal tips</b>	Rolls back on to the tube part	Flares slightly outwards
<b>Flower scent</b>	Quite a strong, sweet scent	Little or no scent at all
<b>Pollen colour</b>	Pale cream	Deep blue
<b>Leaf width</b>	Fairly narrow, between 7-25mm	Broad, up to 35mm
<b>Habitat</b>	Woodland, hedgerows, moorland, under bracken and on sea cliffs	Woods, hedgerows, roadside verges usually not far from houses, gardens, parks and waste ground

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