

# Pink Purslane

## Species Description

**Scientific name:** *Claytonia sibirica*

**AKA:** Siberian Spring Beauty, Siberian Miner's Lettuce

**Native to:** Russian Far East, Alaska and California

**Habitat:** Commonly found on river margins, soil, gravel and cobble bars. May also be found in damp woodlands.

Pink Purslane is a spring/summer flowering plant characterised by long stalks, oval basal leaves and open clusters of pink or white flowers with five deeply notched petals. Within its native range, this plant typically inhabits wet or moist woodlands and river banks. In the UK, it occupies similar habitats although it can also grow along footpaths and on exposed bedrock.

Initially introduced into UK horticulture in 1768, Pink Purslane was first recorded growing wild in 1837. It has since spread relatively slowly compared to other invasive non-native plants, and there are currently no associated quantified social or economic impacts. This plant has been reported growing throughout Scotland, Wales and Northern England where it emerges early in the growing season before collapsing during dieback. This process causes a build-up of dead plant matter which suppresses the growth of native plant species and ultimately leads to a net loss in biodiversity.

Its main mode of spread within the UK is almost certainly through the dispersal of seed, particularly via waterways e.g. rivers. The illegal dumping of garden waste has also contributed to multiple introductions throughout the countryside, particularly in woodlands and hedgerows where fly-tipping is common.

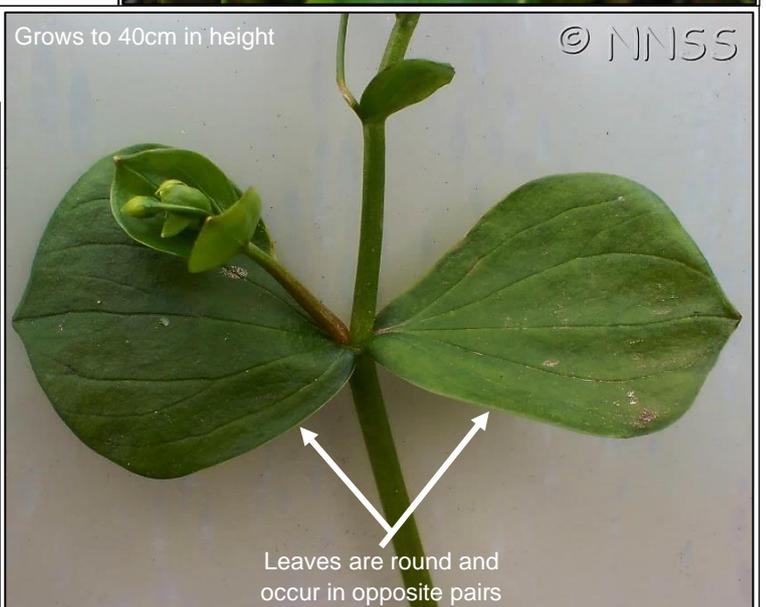


## Key ID Features



Forms dense mats which quickly outcompete native vegetation

Grows to 40cm in height



Leaves are round and occur in opposite pairs

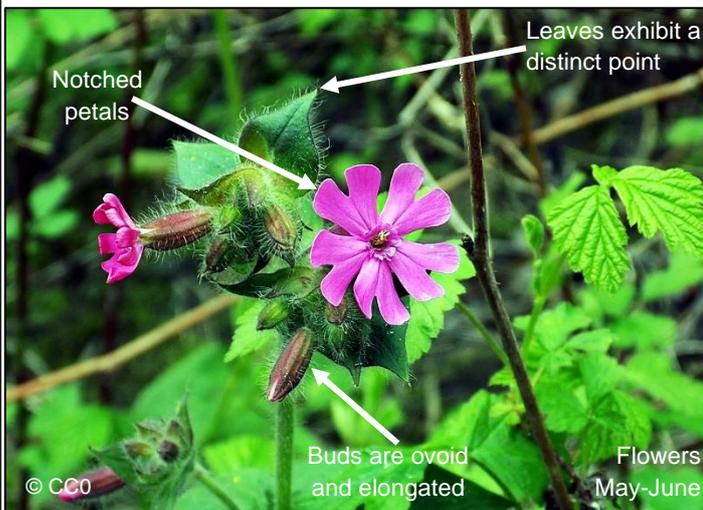
# Identification throughout the Year

Pink Purslane is present year-round and is most easily recognisable during the flowering period which lasts between April and July when plants exhibit five deeply notched petals which protrude from distinctly triangularly shaped buds (pictured left). Flowers have a vibrant pink colouration with each possessing five stamens. Outside of the flowering period, the plant is identified by its oval shaped leaves (pictured right).

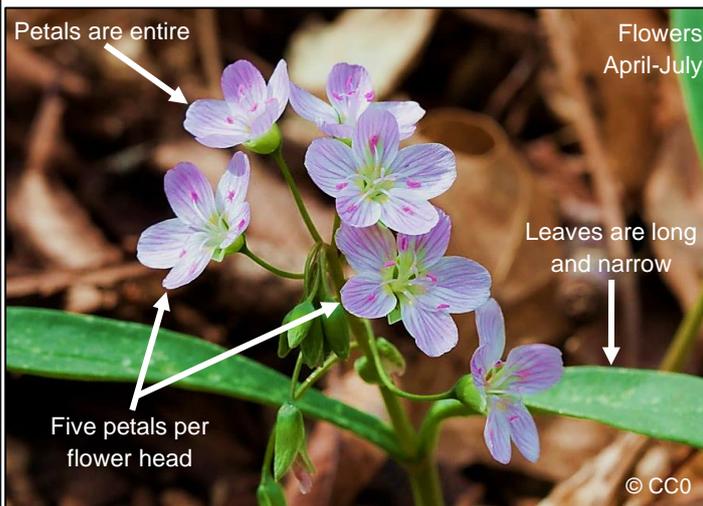


## Similar Species

Red Campion (*Silene dioica*)  
[Native]

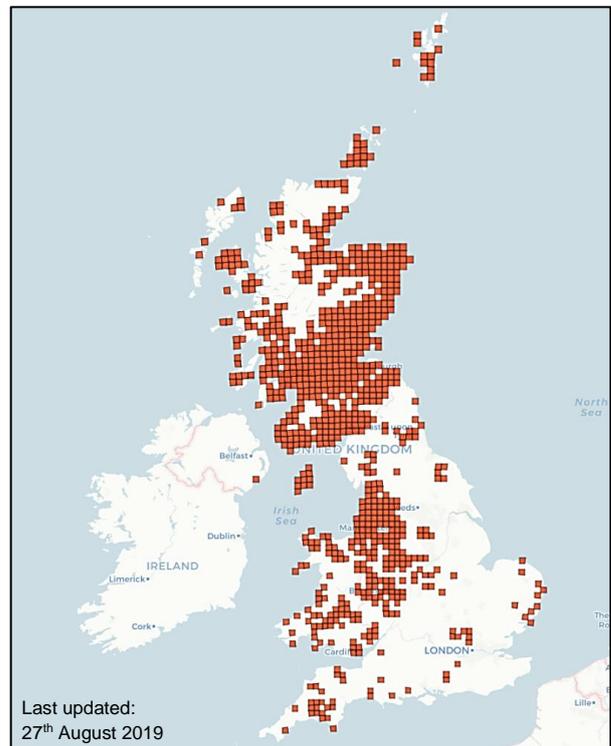


Virginia Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)  
[Invasive Non-native]



## Distribution

Pink Purslane is abundant throughout Scotland/Northern England and Wales/Western England, with sparser populations present across the eastern regions.



## References and Further Reading:

Booy, O., Wade, M. and Roy, H., E. (2015) *Invasive plants and animals of Britain*. London: Bloomsbury Natural History.

Lansdown, R., V. (2011) *Pink Purslane, Claytonia sibirica*. Available at: <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/factsheet/factsheet.cfm?speciesId=845> (Accessed: 04<sup>th</sup> March 2019).

Streeter, D. (2009) *Collins flower guide : the most complete guide to the flowers of Britain & Europe*. London: Collins.