

Glebionis segetum L.

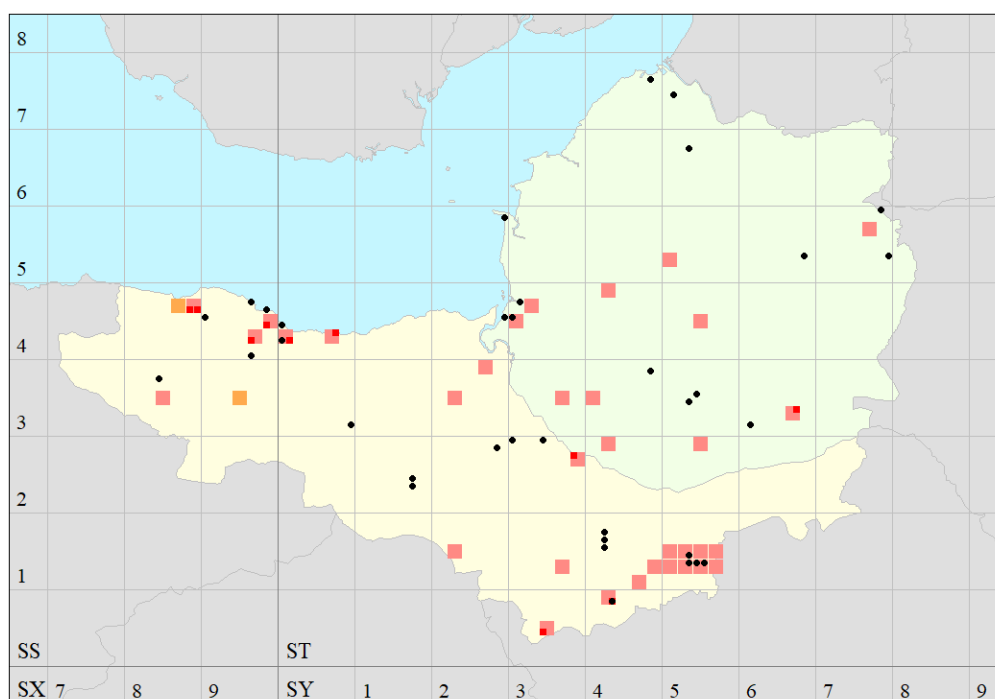
Corn marigold

Archaeophyte

GB & England: Vulnerable

VC5 Not Scarce; VC6 Not Scarce

Usually a spring-germinating annual of well-drained, often sandy or loamy soils, growing in arable fields and on other disturbed ground. As an archaeophyte, this species was once frequent in cornfields around Bath (Babington, 1834) and occasional in cornfields around Bristol (Swete, 1854); however Murray (1896) considered it a rare weed of cultivated ground in Somerset, and White (1912) observed that it never occurs in any quantity here, this scarcity contrasting strongly with the situation in other counties. Roe (1981) stated that it is only a casual in the north of Somerset, and rare elsewhere, but quite frequent on the Yeovil Sands [ST51]. In recent years, most records for this species have been of introductions, as *Glebionis segetum* is often included in seed mixtures of "cornfield flowers". In VC5 there are scattered post-2000 records. Only at Bradford-on-Tone, East Coker and on the southern edge of Crewkerne has it been found in arable fields; all other records are of plants which have originated from sown seed mixes. It appeared near Exford in sown pheasant cover, on seeded verges at Minehead, Culver Cliff, Carhampton and Eastbury Hill, also in a roadside ditch at Croydon Hill and on a verge at Durston, on disturbed ground in Minehead and at St Michael Church, and has been sown in arable headlands, for example near Lopen. In VC6 there are fewer post-2000 records: as an arable weed a single plant was found in 2011 in a field at Lower Failand Farm. Plants recorded at Baltonsborough and on banks of the Huntspill River sluice originated from sown seed mixes, whilst plants outside holiday homes at Brean Down, on a verge at Glastonbury and on tipped soil at Woolverton are certainly introduced. Plants along the bank of a recently cleared ditch at Portbury Wharf and on disturbed ground at Carymoor Environmental Centre may have arisen from long-buried seed. Always a scarce plant in Somerset, this species appears to have declined as an archaeophyte, most recent records being for introductions.



Distribution of *Glebionis segetum* in Somerset, mapped using MapMate. Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999 records; sepia squares are pre-1987 records.