



## #dinkymoira Violet ID Tips #wildflowerhour

### Sweet Violet (top) & Hairy Violet (bottom)

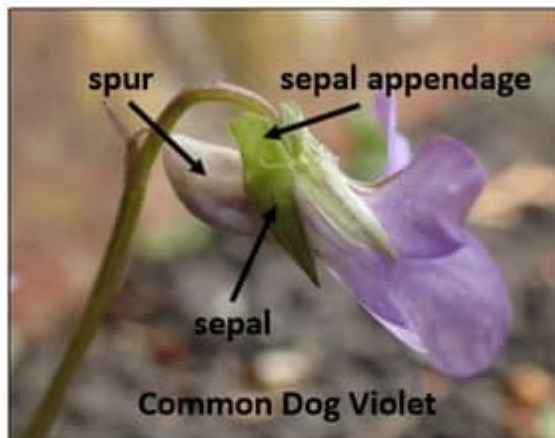
**Sepals** These two species are the *only* ones to have rounded, blunt-tipped sepals, all the rest have pointy sepals.

**Sepal Appendages** SV: angled away from the flower stem (patent). HV: pressed toward the stem (appressed).

**Petal colour** SV: Most common are rich violet or white. HV: Pale violet blue, rarely white.

**Spur** SV: stout, unnotched, sometimes hooked upwards, same colour as petals, except the white variety which has a violet spur. HV: slightly hooked, unnotched, purplish.

**Habitat** SV: road verges, open woodland and churchyards. HV: prefers short vegetation on dry calcareous grassland.



One violet can look very much like another when you are starting out in botany, so how do you tell the different species apart? A good wildflower guide will give full species accounts, but there is a lot you can tell just from looking at the characteristics of the flowers. Here's a brief look at the four most common species.

The most helpful features of the flowers to look at are, the **spur**, the **sepals** and the **sepal appendages** (small flaps at stem end of sepals).



### Early Dog (top) & Common Dog (bottom) Violet

**Sepals** These two species have pointy sepals.

**Sepal Appendages** EDV: much smaller (<1.5mm) than those of CDV, which are large (>1.5 mm) and square cut and sometimes notched or scalloped.

**Veining on lower petal** EDV: unbranched or scarcely branched. CDV: long and much branched.

**Spur** EDV: slender, unnotched and generally a darker violet than the petals. CDV: stout, obviously notched on the end and generally paler than petals.

**Habitat** EDV: mostly a woodland plant and rarely grows in the open. CDV: Our commonest violet with a wide range of habitats.

These two can be sometimes be very tricky to tell apart, as infuriatingly there are plants that seem to share floral characteristics of both species!

