



## WILD ARUM, LORDS- AND- LADIES or CUCKOO PINT (*Arum maculatum*)

Wild arum is common throughout the whole of the British Isles as far north as the Firth of Forth, and common throughout Ireland.

It is a common perennial plant of hedgerows, hedgebanks, deciduous woodland, scrub and wooded cliffs by the sea. It grows on moist humus rich acid or base rich soils.

The large flowers are produced in April and May and consist of a hood surrounding the male and female flower parts. The flower emits an odour which attracts owl-midges which then enter the floral chamber, and pass by a ring of stiff bristles which prevents them from escaping.

The midges then pollinate the flower while they are trapped inside, and get covered in pollen, and later escape when the bristles wilt.

The seeds form inside red berries that are green at first and then turn red when ripe. The berries are poisonous.



## WOOD SPURGE (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*)

Wood spurge is a tall perennial plant found mainly in southern England occurring in most of the country as far north as the Wash. It is very rare in Wales, but widespread in the south west of England.

It is a characteristic plant of ancient woodlands on damp mildly acid and alkaline soils.

It often appears in great abundance after coppicing, along with many other woodland flowers.

It has small green flowers surrounded by large green bracts which make the flowers appear larger than they actually are. The small black seeds are formed in round capsules in August and September.