

# Bluebells

How to spot the difference between  
native and non-native bluebells

**native  
bluebell**

*Hyacinthoides  
non-scripta*

**VS**

**spanish  
bluebell**

*Hyacinthoides  
hispanica*

**droopy**

**flower stalk**

**upright**



**sweet  
aroma**

**scent**

**no  
scent**



**flower shape**

**narrow with  
rolled back tips**

**conical with  
open tips**

**pollen colour**



**creamy  
white**

**blue**



**Half of the World's  
native bluebell  
population are  
found in the U.K.**

**Native bluebells are  
typical of ancient  
woodland. Flowering  
before the leaf  
canopy appears.**

## THREATS

Spanish bluebells crossbreed with our  
native bluebells to form a fertile hybrid  
diluting the unique characteristics of  
our native species.

Concerns are growing that this hybrid  
may eventually out-compete our  
native species.



**Please remember  
native bluebells are  
protected by law**