

# Many populations of arable weeds are threatened with extinction

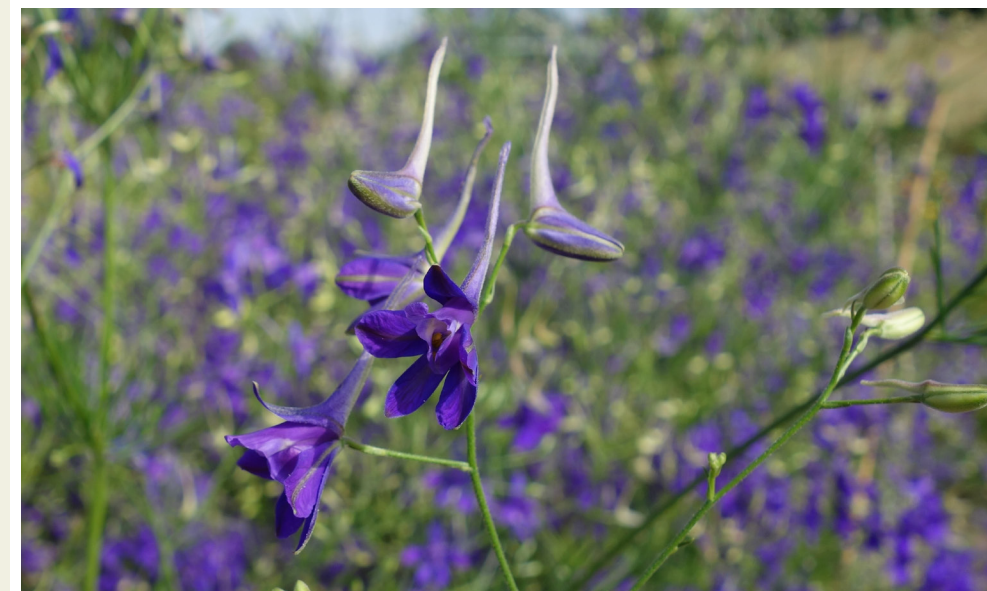


Arable weeds

Arable weeds have been growing in or around our crops for centuries. They rely on the regular disturbance of the soil caused by ploughing. If this no longer occurs, as in the case of meadows or old fallow fields, most of these arable weeds are smothered by more competitive, perennial species. Many of our arable weed species are now considered threatened with extinction.

## Photos:

- 1** The major threats to arable weeds are the intensive use of synthetic fertilisers and herbicides, as well as the abandonment of crop fields with low intensity management. Photo: S. Meyer
- 2** The severe decline in arable weeds also has negative consequences for the animal species of crop fields. Many of the insects, birds and mammals of these habitats are threatened or already extinct. Photo: U. Hertel
- 3** Conservation projects play a very important role in preserving the species of arable habitats. The Experimental Botanical Garden also contributes to this conservation effort through the cultivation of threatened arable weeds such as forking larkspur (*Consolida regalis*). Photo: L. Köhler



Experimental Botanical Garden

More information

