Irish Vegetation Classification (IVC)

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Community Synopsis

Scientific name	*Veronica persica – Lamium purpureum* weed community
Common name	Common Field-speedwell – Red Dead-nettle weed community
Community code	WE1C

Vegetation

This is a relatively diverse weed community with sparse cover that is characterised by the presence of the neophyte *Veronica persica* and the archaeophyte *Lamium purpureum*. Alongside these species are usually found a less diagnostic assemblage of *Senecio vulgaris*, *Poa annua*, *Stellaria media*, *Sonchus oleraceus*, *Capsella bursa-pastoris* and *Ranunculus repens*. Frequently there may be some cover of *Chenopodium album* or *Elytrigia repens*.

Ecology

This is a common weed community of fairly fertile circum-neutral, disturbed soils and is found growing amongst crops in arable fields, flower beds, and market and kitchen gardens.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

Similar communities

From other weed communities, WE1C is distinguished mainly by the frequency and abundance of *Veronica persica* and *Lamium purpureum*.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	116
Transitional:	10
Total:	126

Number of records (mapped)

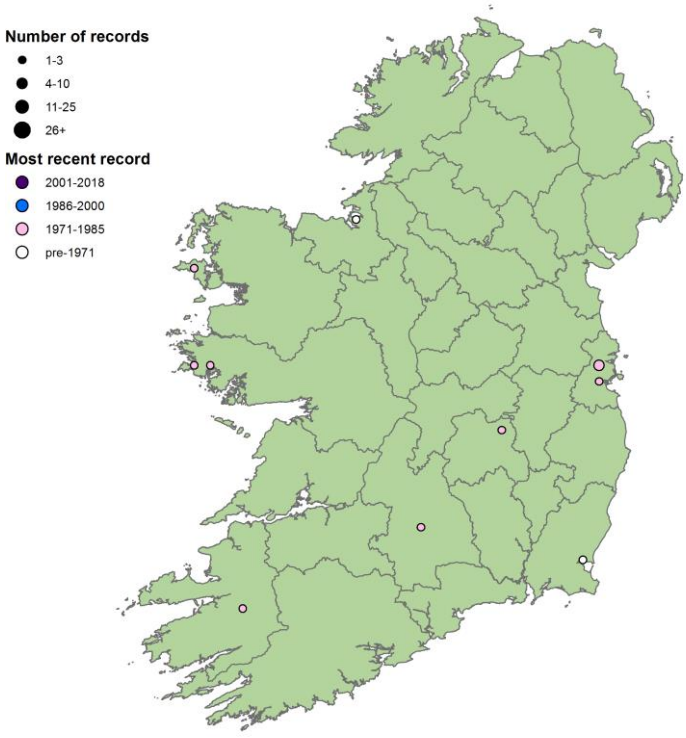
2001-2018:	0
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	13
Pre-1971:	3
Total:	16

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2018:	0
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985	8
Pre-1971:	2
Total:	10

Number of hectads (all mapped records)

2001-2018:	0
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985	8
Pre-1971:	2



Synoptic table (*n* = 115)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
Veronica persica	V	2-(3)-6	*Euphorbia peplus*	II	+-(2)-5
Senecio vulgaris	V	2-(3)-7	*Papaver dubium*	II	2-(3)-6
Poa annua	V	2-(3)-8	*Euphorbia helioscopia*	II	2-(3)-6
Stellaria media	V	2-(3)-5	*Cirsium arvense*	II	2-(2)-5
Lamium purpureum	IV	2-(3)-8	*Sinapis arvensis*	II	2-(3)-6
Sonchus oleraceus	IV	2-(3)-5	*Fallopia convolvulus*	II	2-(3)-5
Capsella bursa-pastoris	IV	2-(3)-5	*Urtica urens*	II	2-(3)-8
Ranunculus repens	IV	2-(3)-5	*Veronica hederifolia*	II	2-(2)-8
Chenopodium album	III	2-(3)-5	*Persicaria maculosa*	I	2-(3)-7
Elytrigia repens	III	2-(3)-7	*Anagallis arvensis*	I	2-(2)-3
Rumex crispus	II	2-(2)-3	*Myosotis arvensis*	I	2-(2)-3
Matricaria discoidea	II	2-(3)-3	*Fumaria bastardii*	I	2-(3)-5
Agrostis stolonifera	II	2-(3)-5	*Trifolium repens*	I	2-(2)-3
Fumaria officinalis	II	2-(2)-3	*Cerastium fontanum*	I	+-(2)-3
Galium aparine	II	2-(2)-5	*Urtica dioica*	I	+-(2)-3
Lapsana communis	II	2-(2)-6	*Sonchus arvensis*	I	2-(3)-5
Rumex obtusifolius	II	2-(2)-6	*Atriplex patula*	I	2-(3)-3
Polygonum aviculare	II	2-(3)-3	*Papaver rhoeas*	I	2-(3)-5
Sonchus asper	II	2-(2)-5	*Sisymbrium officinale*	I	2-(3)-3
Taraxacum officinale agg.	II	2-(2)-3	*Lolium perenne*	I	2-(2)-3

Affinities

GHI: BC1 Arable crops / BC2 Horticultural land

ZM: QA Papaveretea rhoeadis (80.0%)

EUNIS: I1 Arable land and market gardens

NVC: OV13 *Stellaria media – Capsella bursa-pastoris* community (72.4%), but also OV7 *Veronica persica – Veronica polita* community

Annex I: No significant correspondence

Proxy environmental data

Light: 6.9 Reaction: 6.6 Wetness: 5.1 Fertility: 6.7 Salinity: 0.3

Conservation value

Vegetation corresponding to this community is typically of relatively low conservation value. Segetal assemblages can contain archaeophytes such as *Centaurea cyanus* and *Agrostemma githago* which were once common sites of arable fields, but are now very rare.

Management

The persistence of this community is dependent on the regular disturbance that comes with arable farming and gardening practices. Rarer archaeophytes have declined due to modernisation of these practices.

Key references

Lambe, E. (1971) A phytosociological and ecological analysis of Irish weed communities. (Ph.D. thesis). National University of Ireland, Galway.

Brun-Hool, J., Wilmanns, O. (1982) Plant communities of human-settlements in Ireland. 2. Gardens, parks and roads. *Journal of Life Sciences Royal Dublin Society* 3(1), 91-103.

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