



# **WILDER PENTWYN PROJECT**

## **Rare Plant Introductions**

### **Update report**

**June 2025**

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## 1. Wilder Pentwyn Project – Rare plant introductions

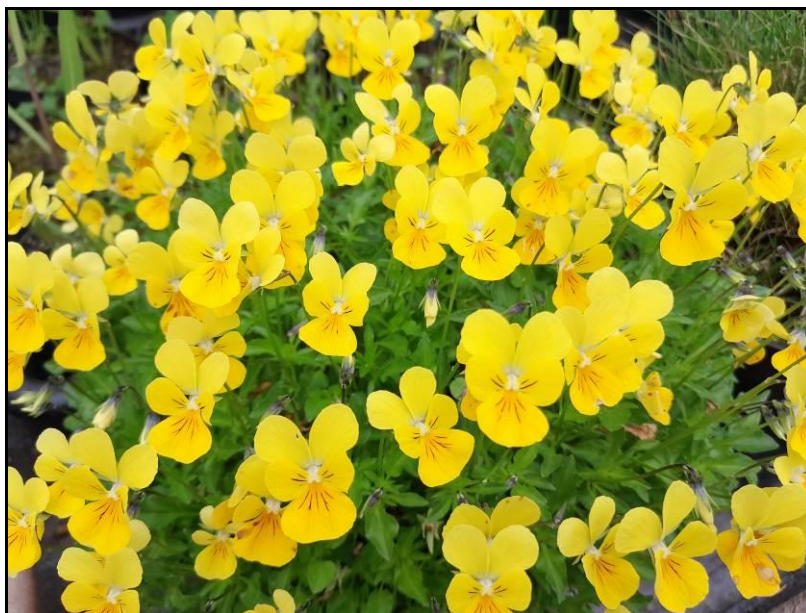
- 1.1. This report is a photographic record of ongoing rare plant introduction work that is being undertaken at the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust's Wilder Pentwyn Project.
- 1.2. To date, Mountain Pansy *Viola lutea*, Brecon Dandelion *Taraxacum breconense*, Wood Bitter-vetch *Vicia orobus*, Globeflower *Trollius europaeus*, Deptford Pink *Dianthus armeria*, and Annual Knawel *Scleranthus annuus* have been introduced to Pentwyn. Further introductions of these species will be undertaken later this summer and next year.
- 1.3. In addition to the species listed above, a number of other species are currently being cultivated at the Rare British Plants Nursery and these will also be introduced to Pentwyn later this season and early next year. These species include; Tubular-water Dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa*, Melancholy Thistle *Cirsium heterophyllum*, and Tree Lungwort Lichen *Lobaria pulmonaria*.

Andrew G Shaw  
June 2025



**Figure 1**

A huge Mountain Pansy plant grown from seeds collected at Gilfach Nature Reserve. This impressive plant is not something that would be seen in the wild. In a wild situation the plants are much more delicate and grow interwoven with other species. The net bags collect the seeds which are ejected explosively from the seed pods. Seeds from this 'mother plant' are being grown on for introduction to Pentwyn.



**Figure 2**

A Mountain Pansy plant in cultivation.



**Figure 3**

Mountain Pansy plants grown from seeds collected at Tylcau Hill Nature Reserve. By using seeds from a number of sources a more genetically diverse population will be created. This will increase the chances of successfully establishing a self-sustaining population at Pentwyn.



**Figure 4**

Cultivated Mountain Pansy plants prior to introduction at Pentwyn





**Figure 5**

Mountain Pansy introduction site. A bank of lightly grazed turf.  
Blue bags mark the introduction areas.



**Figure 6**

Mountain Pansy immediately after being planted in March.  
The plastic marker helps relocate the plant (when it's not in flower).



**Figure 7**

An introduced Mountain Pansy flowering at Pentwyn in April. One month after the initial introduction.



**Figure 8**

The incredibly rare Brecon Dandelion. There are only a handful of sites left for this rare endemic species and the total world population probably numbers less than fifty individuals. Seeds for the project were supplied by Kew's Millenium Seed Bank.





**Figure 9**

Brecon Dandelion introduction site at Pentwyn.  
Blue bags mark the introduction areas.



**Figure 10**

A Brecon Dandelion with flower buds and seed heads.  
Photographed over one month after planting out.



**Figure 11**

As well as introducing Brecon Dandelion plants, seeds were also scattered in suitable areas along a wooded slope. The seeds were introduced by a group of visiting school children who visited Pentwyn to learn about biodiversity and the wilding project.



**Figure 12**

Cultivated Wood Bitter-vetch. A western species that was once common and widespread in Wales. It has suffered a catastrophic decline particularly as a result of agricultural intensification.





**Figure 13**

Wood Bitter-vetch introduction area along an old fence line.  
Introduction locations temporarily marked with pots.



**Figure 14**

Two months after planting. The Wood Bitter-vetch plants have survived some exceptional and unseasonably dry conditions and are putting on fresh growth.



**Figure 15**

Cultivated Wood Bitter-vetch plants with seed pods. Seeds from cultivated plants will be introduced to meadows at Pentwyn in late summer.



**Figure 16**

Globeflowers in cultivation at The Rare British Plants Nursery.





**Figure 17**

Globeflower introduction site at Pentwyn, next to the River Lugg. Blue bags mark some of the introduced Globe-flower plants.



**Figure 18**

One month after planting and the Globeflowers are putting on fresh growth.



**Figure 19**

Deptford Pink. A very rare annual species associated with bare open ground. Only a small handful of sites remain for this species in Wales. Seeds have been introduced to disturbed areas around the barn and hedgerows at Pentwyn.



**Figure 20**

A huge Annual Knapweed plant in cultivation. This rare annual species of bare ground is associated with trackways, rocky outcrops, and areas that are poached by animals.





**Figure 21**

Annual Knawel flowers and seeds. It has not been recorded in Radnorshire for many years.



**Figure 22**

Annual Knawel introduction site along stone trackway and adjoining areas. Seeds were introduced in March. Seedlings are likely to appear in Autumn.



**Figure 23**

Cultivated Tubular-water Dropwort. Now down to just two or three sites in Radnorshire. Plants are currently being cultivated and will be introduced to Pentwyn in 2026 following the creation of a new wetland and marsh.



**Figure 24**

Tubular-water Dropwort flowers. Seeds from these cultivated plants will also be used in the introduction project.





**Figure 25**

Melancholy Thistle is known from two sites in Radnorshire and these represent the southernmost populations in Britain. Both these populations are in steep decline. Cultivated material from the closest of these populations will be introduced to Pentwyn in Autumn 2025. This photo is of a plant at an introduction site near Builth Wells. This introduced population now covers a significant area and was introduced over fifteen years ago.



**Figure 26**

Cultivated Melancholy Thistle awaiting introduction to Pentwyn.



**Figure 28**

Tree Lungwort, a rare species of lichen that has been eradicated from huge areas of Wales by atmospheric pollution. This photograph is of an introduced Tree Lungwort that is growing on a tree at the Rare British Plants Nursery. Material from this population will be used to found a population at Pentwyn. The Tree Lungwort will be introduced in Autumn 2025 when the weather is cool and wet.