

A Simplified Key to Common Forget-me-nots (*Myosotis*)

Forget-me-nots are familiar flowers of spring and popular for their bright blue flowers. They occur in all habitats, from urban pavements to pool-sides and upland flushes and at times, are popular as garden plants. They simplified key below covers those most likely to be encountered in the North East.

Hairs on calyx spreading, stiff and hooked.	Flowers tiny, insignificant, c2mm across, blue, pink, or white.	Some pink or white flowers present + style longer than the calyx tube (protruding). Flower stalk (at fruiting) shorter than the calyx.	Changing Forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis discolor</i>)
		Flowers uniform blue, style shorter than the calyx tube (hidden). Flower stalk (at fruiting) shorter than the calyx.	Early Forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis ramosissima</i>)
	Flowers larger and showier, 3-10mm, typically bright blue.	Flowers large to 10mm and deep blue. Style longer than calyx tube (protruding) Flower stalk (at fruiting) shorter than calyx.	Wood Forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>)
		Flowers to 5mm, pale sky blue. Flower stalk (at fruiting) twice as long as calyx. Style shorter than calyx tube (hidden).	Field Forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>)
Hairs on calyx unhooked.	Style longer than calyx tube at flowering (protruding). Lower part of the stem with hairs appressed .	Water Forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>)	
	Style shorter than calyx tube at flowering (hidden). Lower part of them with hairs appressed only.	Stolons from lower nodes. Leaves large (>4x as long as wide).	Pale Forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis stolonifera</i>)
		No stolons present. Leaves smaller (rarely > 3x as long as wide).	Tufted Forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis laxa</i>)
	Style shorter than calyx tube at flowering (hidden). Lower part of stem with hairs patent (sticking out).	Creeping Forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis seccunda</i>)* *Alpine Forget-me-not could also key out here but is terribly rare.	

