

**Table 1 Plant communities found on floodplain meadows**

<b>NVC code</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Habitat</b>
MG4	<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> - <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> grassland	Burnet floodplain meadow	A species-rich community liable to occasional inundation from floods	Alluvial soils of river floodplains
MG5	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> - <i>Centaurea nigra</i> grassland	Knapweed meadow	A species rich community growing on infertile soil	A range of soils, typically undisturbed and unimproved
MG7C	<i>Lolium perenne</i> - <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> - <i>Festuca pratensis</i> grassland	Foxtail grassland	A less species-rich community growing on more fertile soils, sometimes through agricultural improvement	Floodplains receiving heavy silt deposits; occasionally fertilised.
MG8	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> - <i>Caltha palustris</i> grassland	Kingcup meadow	A species-rich community often found on sites with intensive water management	Floodplains with managed hydrology or seepage faces, where the soil is constantly moist.

**Table 2 Plant species arranged by soil water and fertility tolerances**

Plants are grouped according to their water and fertility requirements and can be used as a guide to soil wetness or fertility in situations where the named species are abundant and account for a substantial part of the sward. The table shows those plants that can tolerate environmental extremes. For example, sites that are subject to more than 20 weeks of wet soil and more than 20 weeks of dry soil per year support only a limited range of plants. In contrast, sites that are more moderate, with 10-20 weeks of wet soil and 10-20 weeks of dry soil, will support a greater range of plants. These sites are where the typical floodplain meadow community is found. 'Wet soil' refers to water tables that are so close to the surface that there is very little air in the soil. Plant roots need oxygen to live, and only a limited number of species can thrive in such conditions. 'Dry soil' refers to water tables so deep that water cannot move up through the soil quickly enough to match the rate of evaporation and the top layer of soil dries out.

A typical plant community as defined by the NVC likely to be found within each set of environmental conditions is also indicated in the table.

**Table 2 Plant species arranged by soil water and fertility tolerances**

	Weeks of wet soil		
Weeks of dry soil	<10 weeks	10-20 weeks	>20 weeks
<10 weeks	<i>Carex panicea</i> <i>Succisa pratensis</i> <b>MG8</b>	<i>Equisetum palustre</i> <b>M23</b>	<i>Carex disticha</i> <i>Eleocharis palustris</i> <b>S19</b>
	<i>Stellaria graminea</i> <b>MG8</b>	<i>Caltha palustris</i> <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> <i>Juncus articulatus</i> <b>M27</b>	<i>Carex acuta</i> <i>Persicaria amphibia</i> <b>S7</b>
	<i>Festuca pratensis</i> <b>MG7C</b>	<i>Juncus effusus</i> <b>MG10</b>	<i>Glyceria maxima</i> <i>Rumex crispus</i> <b>S5</b>
10-20 weeks	<i>Carex flacca</i> <i>Luzula campestris</i> <b>MG5</b>	<i>Silaum silaus</i> <b>MG4/MG5</b>	<i>Carex nigra</i> <b>Agrostis-Carex grassland</b>
	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> <i>Ranunculus acris</i> <i>Trifolium pratense</i> <b>MG6</b>	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> <i>Cardamine pratensis</i> <i>Centaurea nigra</i> <b>MG4</b>	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> <i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i> <i>Senecio aquaticus</i> <b>MG13</b>
	<i>Lolium perenne</i> <i>Taraxacum officinalis</i> <b>MG7D</b>	<i>Cirsium arvense</i> <i>Ranunculus repens</i> <b>OV28</b>	<i>Glyceria fluitans</i> <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> <b>S22</b>
>20 weeks	<i>Leontodon taraxacoides</i> <i>Trisetum flavescens</i> <b>MG5/CG6</b>	<i>Galium verum</i> <b>MG5</b>	<b>MG9</b>
	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> <b>MG5</b>	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i> <i>Leontodon autumnalis</i> <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> <i>Fritillaria meleagris</i> <b>MG4</b>	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> <b>MG9</b>
	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> <b>MG1</b>	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i> <i>Poa trivialis</i> <b>MG1/MG11</b>	<i>Elytrigia repens</i> <b>S28/OV29</b>