

Waxcaps,

Waxcaps are a bright colourful group of fungi, appearing like gemstones in our grassland, from late summer throughout the autumn in lawns, meadows and grassland across the National Park.

They get their name from the thick waxy gills they have tucked neatly under their caps and as well as the rainbow of colours some also have distinct scents such as honey, garlic and wood shavings!

Where can you see them?

Our richest waxcap grassland is found in our upland pastures which have low grazing pressures, are relatively undisturbed and free from fertilisers. These grasslands can support up to 20 species of waxcaps with some of the best sites occurring in the east of the National Park at the Lui flats and Morrone Birkwoods near Braemar.

However you can have these stunning beauties growing in your garden lawns, in areas that are relatively undisturbed and free from lawn and fertiliser treatments.

What work is happening to safeguard Waxcaps?

Over the years there have been significant losses of rich waxcap grassland sites across the UK, due to agricultural improvements such as the addition of fertilisers, tilling and re-seeding. We are working in partnership with Plantlife Scotland to identify and protect our most important waxcap grasslands in the Cairngorms National Park.

What can you do to help?

There are many things we can all do to help protect and enhance waxcap populations. If you have a lawn try to avoid the temptation to fertilise or treat it with chemicals, remove clippings after you mow it and keep some areas un-trampled.

Also let us know if you see any of these colourful fungi when you are out and about exploring the Cairngorms National Park, take a photo and send it in and then we can survey the sites and build up a picture of where these waxcap gems are so we can help protect them for the future.



Stay home

**Protect the NHS
Save lives**

The current government advice is that there should be no unnecessary travel at this time. Whilst it is important to get outside and exercise you must do so locally and observe social distancing measures. To enjoy the outdoors you can undertake exercise such as a run, walk, or cycle. This should be done alone or only with people you live with. During this period there should be no wild camping, fires or barbecues anywhere in the Park.