

# Botanical indicators

How the vegetation helps us to notice signs and tracks





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# KYT LYN WALKEN

**"I love Kyt's passion for Mantracking.  
This girl is on fire"**

**Joel Lambert, 10 year Veteran of Navy SEAL Teams**

**Kyt Lyn Walken is an authentic enthusiast and trader of the Ancient Art of Human and Animal Tracking. This skill is still very effective nowadays from Search and Rescue, Tactical dimension, Forensic Science until Wildlife Conservation.**

**She has been entitled "Official Representative of Hull's Tracking School" in 2018.**

**Mike Hull is her Mentor.**

**In the same year she has become a Conservation Ranger after attending a two weeks course in Poland led by C.R.O.W. (Conservation Rangers Operations Worldwide).**

**Kyt Lyn has also studied "Forensic Photographs on Crime Scene", by UK Forensic Advisor and former Royal Marines Robert Kendall.**

**Currently she runs Man and Animal Tracking courses all over Europe, and she is regular writer for some US and UK webzines on Survival and Prepping.**

**She has been entitled "Directora de la Escuela de Rastreo Humano Carcayú - Spain". She is Guest Instructor for Veteranen Search Team (The Netherlands).**

**She is author of the Manuals "The importance of being a Tracker", "The Urban Tracker" and "Tracking Compendium" (with Andy Martin), "Jungle Warriors - SAS in Malesia and Borneo" and the essay "Tracking, Anti-Tracking and Counter-Tracking during Colonialism" (with Professor Timothy J. Stapleton).**

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# THE IMPORTANCE OF BOTANICAL INDICATORS IN MANTRACKING

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## BOTANICAL INDICATORS:

With this terminology I mean all the plants that, thanks to their

- delicacy
- softness

- not accentuated resilience

they are able to easily capture any footprint and, consequently, remain bent in the direction taken by the subject for a rather long period of time.

In some cases, if significantly damaged, these plants die.

From a general point of view, some plants that live in humid areas show a lower degree of resilience than others that grow in open spaces: this is due to the difficulty that the former encounter in seeking (and finding) sunlight.

An example above all is plantain, a common plant in the two hemispheres.

The goal of this small handout is twofold.

In the first instance I intend to share six of the most common plants present in Europe and North America which, thanks to some specific intrinsic details above mentioned, can be considered good living indicators to notice the tracks left on them (in terms of trampling) so as in the relocalization phase of the footprints themselves.

Secondly, this handout is intended to be an invitation to all Trackers to create a database of your area rich in local plants which, in turn, can be considered good indicators for the tracks themselves.

As you will see, one area has been taken into consideration: the United Kingdom and specifically Cornwall, Gunwalloe. I reported data relating to the specific moment in which the photographs were taken to provide an idea of the temperature, humidity, direction and strength of the wind.

The tables I created are just a starting point, as they are designed to be constantly updated with the passing of the seasons and weather conditions.  
I hope they can be useful.



Source for data on plants: Wikipedia.

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# HANDOUT TABLE

**NAME:** Dovesfoot geranium  
**LATIN NAME:** *Geranium molle*

**DETAILS:** Annual herbaceous plant, it is found in dry meadows, hedges, banks and forest edges. It prefers sunny places on sandy and relatively dry soils, at an altitude of 0–1,000 metres (0–3,281 ft) above sea level.

**Data:**  
Pics taken on November 9th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.  
Temperature: 8°C  
Humidity: 77%  
Wind direction: from West  
Wind speed: 24 miles an hour

Before



After



**NAME:** Plantain  
**LATIN NAME:** *Plantago lanceolata*

**DETAILS:** Annual herbaceous plant, *Plantago lanceolata* can live anywhere from very dry meadows to places similar to a rain forest, but it does best in open, disturbed areas. It is therefore common near roadsides where other plants cannot flourish; it grows tall if it can do so, but in frequently-mowed areas it adopts a flat growth habit instead.

**Data:**  
Pics taken on November 9th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.  
Temperature: 8°C  
Humidity: 77%  
Wind direction: from West  
Wind speed: 24 miles an hour

Before



After



**NAME:** Dandelion  
**LATIN NAME:** *Taraxacum*

**DETAILS:** Annual herbaceous plant, this plant thrives in temperate regions and can be found in yards, gardens, sides of roads, among crops, and in many other habitats

**Data:**  
Pics taken on November 9th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.  
Temperature: 8°C  
Humidity: 77%  
Wind direction: from West  
Wind speed: 24 miles an hour

Before



After



# HANDOUT TABLE

**NAME:** Sorrel  
**LATIN NAME:** *Rumex acetosa*  
**DETAILS:** Perennial herbaceous plant, it is found in dry meadows, hedges, banks and forest edges, especially in poor soil.

**Data:**  
Pics taken on November 9th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.  
Temperature: 8 °C  
Humidity: 77%  
Wind direction: from West  
Wind speed: 24 miles an hour

Before



After



**NAME:** Dooryard dock  
**LATIN NAME:** *Rumex longifolius*  
**DETAILS:** Perennial plant, it chiefly grows in open areas such as on roadsides, in arable fields and in damp grassy places.

**Data:**  
Pics taken on November 9th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.  
Temperature: 8 °C  
Humidity: 77%  
Wind direction: from West  
Wind speed: 24 miles an hour

Before



After



**NAME:** Opposite Leaved Golden Saxifrage  
**LATIN NAME:** *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*

**DETAILS:** Perennial herbaceous plant, you can easily find it in woodlands and wetlands.

**Data:**  
Pics taken on November 9th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.  
Temperature: 8 °C  
Humidity: 77%  
Wind direction: from West  
Wind speed: 24 miles an hour

Before



After

