



# SPOTTER SHEET

## SEaweEDS

This is a guide to help you identify some of the common seaweeds on Scottish rocky shores. Use the circles provided to mark which species you spot. See definitions of body parts on next sheet.

### OARWEED

*Laminaria digitata*



A species of kelp growing to 1.5m. It has a flexible, smooth stipe and multiple fronds which are thick, leathery and olive-brown. Only found on the low shore, often forming a dense canopy near the low tide mark.



### CUVIE

*Laminaria hyperborea*



A kelp similar to oarweed except growing to 3m with a rigid, rough stipe often covered with other seaweeds. Only found at the bottom of the low shore. Commonly, only the top of the kelp can be seen, appearing above the surface at low tide.



### SUGAR KELP

*Saccharina latissima*

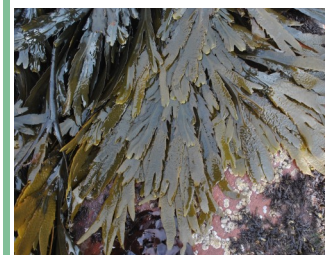


Similar coloured kelp to other species, also growing to 1.5m. Distinguishable from other kelps by a single, crinkled frond shaped like a leather strap. Stipe is short and flexible. Only found on the low shore, particularly in pools.



### SAW WRACK

*Fucus serratus*



A flat, green-brown seaweed on the lower shore, growing to 65cm. Easily distinguishable from other wrack species by its forked ends and serrated edges, giving the species its saw-like appearance.



### EGG WRACK

*Ascophyllum nodosum*



A long (1.2m), yellowish-brown wrack of sheltered shores. Gets its name from the large egg-shaped air bladders within its fronds. Often has tufts of a red seaweed (*Polysiphonia lanosa*) growing on its surface. Forms dense layers in the mid shore.



### BLADDER WRACK

*Fucus vesiculosus*



A species of wrack with characteristic air bladders, commonly occurring in pairs, in its fronds. Greenish-brown in colour, though can appear darker. Can form dense beds in the middle shore, growing up to 80cm long.



### CHANNELLED WRACK

*Pelvetia canaliculata*

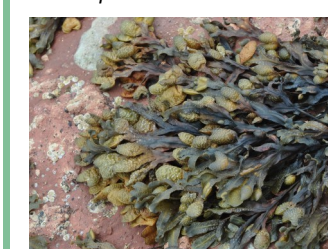


A small species of wrack that forms clumps on the upper shore. Green-brown in colour and grows to 12cm. So called because of its ability to curl its fronds inwards to form a channel, making the species very tolerant to dry conditions.



### SPIRAL WRACK

*Fucus spiralis*



Only found on upper parts of sheltered shores. Fronds tend to twist spirally downwards, giving the species its name. Swollen, greenish reproductive structures form at tips resembling inflated air sacs. Grows to 20cm.





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## SEaweEDS ( CONT. )

### GUTWEED

*Ulva intestinalis*



Bright green, stringy seaweed found in sheltered estuaries, brackish lagoons and upper shore rockpools. Aptly named due to its long, membranous tubed fronds. Grows to 75cm and can form carpets over rocks.

### SEA LETTUCE

*Ulva lactuca*



Flat, bright green, lettuce-like seaweed that grows in rockpools on the upper and middle shore. Fronds are broad, membranous, with tattered edges. Can grow to 40cm, though fronds crumple-up making it hard to distinguish exact size and shape.

### BUNNY EARS

*Lomentaria articulata*



A delightful bright red seaweed of the low shore. Also called 'sausage weed' due to its divided and constricted fronds resembling strings of sausages! The ends split into two, giving the appearance of ears. Small, reaching a maximum of 10cm long.

### DULSE

*Palmaria palmata*



Flat, reddish-brown seaweed that favours moderately exposed shores. Grows to 40cm. Fronds are broad and tough, often divided into finger-like shapes. Attaches via a small disc-shaped holdfast. Often found growing on the stipes of cuvie.

### CORAL WEED

*Corallina officinalis*



A bushy seaweed that resembles a small, pink fern. Grows to 10cm in wet areas low down the shore or rockpools. Though classified as a red seaweed, a layer of calcium carbonate (the same material that makes up shells) makes it appear chalky-pink in colour with white tips.

### LAVER

*Porphyra spp.*



Renown for being the main ingredient in the Welsh delicacy, 'laverbread'! There are different types of laver but all have thin, membranous fronds that form clumps or films across the surface of rocks. Colours vary from purply-brown to yellowish-green. Grows to 50cm in length.

## BEGINNER 'S GUIDE TO SEaweED STRUCTURE:

- **Holdfast** – The structure at the base of the seaweed that attaches it to a hard surface. They can be shaped like claws, discs, or simply spread along a rock like a carpet. Unlike plant roots, they do not absorb nutrients.
- **Stipe** – Similar in function to the stem of plants, this is a trunk-like structure that supports the fronds of the seaweed.
- **Fronds** – The leaf-like food factories, containing the molecule 'chlorophyll' which uses sunlight to convert carbon dioxide and water into sugars.

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