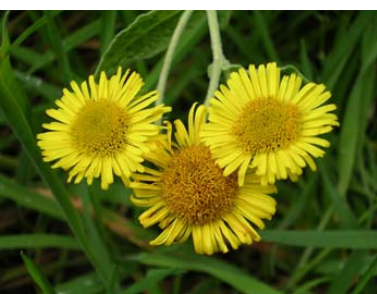




# What to look for in September

In **September** the signs of autumn are becoming visible. Hedgerows are an important source of food for birds and mammals, who are building up fat stores for winter hibernation. Clusters of dark red or black **Elderberries** are beginning to ripen on Elder



Fleabane

trees. Look out for **Hawthorn Haws** and **Rose-hips**, the fruit of the Dog Rose. Hawthorn trees blossom in May, and if fertilized by a passing insect, each flower will develop into a fruit, or haw,



which turns red when it ripens in the autumn. **Common Fleabane** is a late-flowering meadow plant with bright yellow flowers, often unnoticed until it blooms. In late summer and early autumn the plant produces large numbers of dandelion-like seed that are spread great distances



Top: Hawthorn Haws  
Bottom: Elderberries



Ivy Flower

by gusty winds. In the woodland, **Ivy** is coming into flower. This climbing plant grows up and around standing trees, but takes all of its nutrients from the soil, using the tree only as a support for growth. The September flowers are a useful source of nectar and pollen for many insects, whilst its thick

foliage is a valuable refuge for birds and bats nests throughout the year. Migratory birds are getting ready to leave the UK as the summer ends. Birds such as **Chiff-Chaffs** and **Blackcaps** will be starting their long migration flights back to southern Europe and Africa.



Chiff Chaff

The nuts and fruits they have been eating in our hedgerows will be stored as fat reserves around their chest muscles.