

This is our dearest little field blossom. Its yellow head peeps out among the grass in early spring. From spring to nearly midsummer the roads are bordered and the fields carpeted with its bright blooms.

Many unconsciously betray their recognition of the cinquefoil's relationship to the Rose family by claiming that they have found a yellow-flowered strawberry. In fact we will often find it growing near by where the patches of wild strawberries are in bloom.

The honey-bee, alighting in the centre of one of these blossoms, and turning round, passes his tongue over the entire nectar-bearing ring at the base of the stamens, then proceeding to another flower to do likewise, effects cross-fertilization regularly. On a sunny day these bright, rose-like yellow blossoms attract many visitors of the lower grade out after nectar and pollen, the beetles often devouring the anthers in their greed.

The plant gets its generic name, *Potentilla*, from the fact that during the Middle Ages, when almost every plant was credited with healing virtues, the *Potentillas* were considered most potent remedies. The shape of its pretty leaves has given us its common name, "Cinquefoil," from the French *cinq*—five, and *feuilles*—leaves.