



## **GAGEA LUTEA / HYACINTHOIDES NON-SCRIPTA, VEGETATIVE**

Early in the season or as it may be shy flowering, *Gagea lutea* leaves may be confused with young *Hyacinthoides* leaves or seedlings. The species are easily separable on leaf venation, which is sometimes more easily felt than seen. Even leaves of young *Gagea* bulbs 1 mm wide are strongly ribbed, whereas those of *Hyacinthoides* tend to be semi-cylindrical. The latter also have a stringy, sticky sap which exudes once the leaves are broken; this is absent in *Gagea*.

*Gagea lutea* (L.) Ker Gawl.: 3-5(-7) veined underneath (Fig. a); leaf apex shortly hooded (Fig. b).

*Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (L.) Chouard ex Rothm.: 1 veined underneath (Fig. b); leaf apex acute not hooded (Fig. b).

Later in the season, *Gagea* can be picked out from several yards away as the leaves tend to be upright turning over towards the tip, are glossy, broadest near the apex, and sometimes go brown at the tips. By contrast, *Hyacinthoides* leaves tend to flatten against the ground, are dull and parallel sided.

