



Daisy



Latin: *Bellis perennis*

Irish: *Nóinín*

The daisy is probably the most familiar wildflower in Ireland. It is a perennial plant that flowers nearly all year round and is one of the first to flower early in spring.

As the daisy grows early in the year, it is very beneficial to small insects as it offers an early supply of pollen and nectar.

Habitat: It commonly grows in short grassland, particularly near the coast. While it is an attractive flower, it can quickly take over a closely cut lawn and is unpopular with many gardeners.

Height: The daisy can grow to a height of 5-20cm.

Flowers: Long, oval-shaped petals grow from the centre of the daisy, which is a deep yellow colour. These petals are sometimes tinged with pink at the edges or underneath.

Leaves: The spoon-shaped leaves of the daisy are quite tough and grow tight against the stem in a circle near to the ground. This prevents other plants from growing underneath it and absorbing the daisy's nutrients. The texture of the daisy leaf varies and may be smooth or hairy, narrow at the base. The stalks of the daisy flower are usually longer than the leaves.

Other: The origin of the name 'daisy' lies in the Old English words 'daeg' (day) and 'eage' (eye), which become 'daegeseage' when joined. This means 'day's eye', an appropriate name as the flower unfolds its petals at dawn, and closes them again at dusk.

