

FLORA



Hawthorn
An Sceach Gheal

Hawthorn (or whitethorn) is Ireland’s main hedgerow shrub. Its white flowers make a wonderful sight in spring, and sustain many nectar-feeding invertebrates. The berries, called ‘haws’, provide an important food source for many species, even attracting flocks of fieldfares from as far as Scandinavia. Tá sceach gheal ar phríomhthor na bhfálta sceach in Éirinn. Tá na bláthanna bána atá aici fíor-álainn san earrach, agus cothaíonn siad mórán inveirteabrach neachtair-chothaithe. Soláthraíonn na caora, ar a dtugtar sceachóirí, foinse thábhachtach bia do mhórán speiceas, agus meallann siad na healtaí sacán ó áiteanna chomh fada leis an gCúroch Lochlann.



Wild Rose
Rós Fiáin

Several wild rose species – some very rare – are found in Irish hedges. They climb up through and over other shrubs. The nectar in their delicately scented flowers is loved by many bees, and the fruits – rosehips – are a good food source for birds. Tá roinnt speiceas den rós fiáin le fáil i bhfálta na hÉireann - cuid áirithe atá fíor-thearc ar fad. Dreapann siad tríd agus os cionn toir eile. Is aoibhinn le mórán beach an neachtar ina gcuid bláthanna éadrom-chumhra, agus tá na torthaí - mogóirí róis - mar fhoínse mhaith bia d’éin.



Ash
An Fhuinseog

The ash tree supports around 40 different insect species. The winged seeds in autumn are good food for birds and mammals. Hedgerow ash was traditionally used to make hurley sticks. The pinnate leaflets allow light to penetrate, so do not overly shade the hedge beneath. Tacaíonn an crann fuinseoige le 40 speicis d’fheithidí difriúla. Soláthraíonn na síolta sciathánacha san fhómhair bia maith d’éin agus mhamaigh. Úsáideadh fuinseog na bhfálta sceach go traidisiúnta chun camáin a dhéanamh. Ceadáíonn na duillíní cleiteacha do threá an tsolais, ionas nach mbíonn scáthú iomarcach ar an bhfál laistíos.



Honeysuckle
An Féithleann

Honeysuckle climbs over hedges with its fantastically shaped peach-coloured flowers. These emit their enticing honey scent in the evening, attracting night-flying nectar-eating moths, which in turn attract hungry bats! Honeysuckle berries provide nutrition for various hedgerow inhabitants. Dreapann an féithleann os cionn na bhfálta lena mbláthanna le cruth iontach agus dath péitseoige. Déanann siad seo a gcumhra mealltach meala a astú sa tráthnóna, a mheallann féileacáin oíche neachtair-chothaithe a bhíonn i mbun eitilte san oíche, a mheallann ialtóga ocracha dá réir! Soláthraíonn caora an fhéithlinn cothú d’áitritheoirí na bhfálta sceach.



Spindle
An Feoras

A rarer hedgerow shrub, spindle really stands out in the autumn, when its leaves turn fiery red and its wonderfully star-shaped deep-pink berries appear. The seeds inside these berries are bright orange, and are dispersed by the mammals and birds that eat them. Níl tor na bhfálta sceach seo chomh coitianta, ach seasann an feoras amach san fhómhar, nuair a athraíonn na duilleoga go dearg lasrach agus feictear na caora iontacha bándearga troma atá réalt-chruthach. Tá na síolta laistigh de na caora seo glé-oráiste, agus tá siad scaipthe ag mamaigh agus éin a itheann iad.



Wild Strawberry
Sú Talún Fhiáin

This plant grows along moist, partially shaded hedge banks. Its delicate little white flowers develop into juicy, super-sweet strawberries from July until autumn. They are a tasty treat for bugs, mice, voles and birds, who help to spread the plant by excreting its seeds. Fásann an planda seo ar bhainc scáthaithe na bhfálta atá tais. Forbraíonn a bhláthanna beaga leochaileacha bána go sútha talún neamh-mhilse ó Iúil go dtí an fhómhair. Is só deas iad do fhrídí beaga, luch, vóil agus éin, a chuidíonn leis an bplanda a leathadh trína síolta a eisfhearadh.



Crab Apple
Fia-Úll

Crab apples are the wild ancestors of eating apples. The plant provides a home and sustenance to 90 insect species. The small apples are eaten by birds, badgers, mice and foxes. They are too bitter for humans to eat unless cooked up as jam or jelly. Is sinsearaigh fhiáine na n-úlla inite iad na fia-úlla. Soláthraíonn an planda baile agus cothú do 90 speiceas d’fheithidí. Itheann éin, broic, luch agus sionnaigh na húlla beaga. Tá siad ró-shearbh le n-ithe do dhaoine, murach go ndéantar iad a chócaráil mar shubh nó glóthach.



Herb Robert
An Ruithéal Rí

Herb Robert is common in hedge verges throughout Ireland. It is one of our few plants whose flowers – a pretty pink or purple – seem to tolerate the onset of winter, providing late-season nectar to many creatures. Its delicate, fern-like leaves can be seen throughout the year. Tá an Ruithéal Rí coitianta i ngruaimhíní na bhfálta mórthimpeall na hÉireann. Is ceann de líon beag plandaí againn a bhfuil a bhláthanna - bán dearg álainn - ábalta teacht an gheimhridh a sheasamh, a sholáthraíonn neachtar do mhórán créatúr déanach sa séasúr. Is féidir na duilleoga leochaileacha atá aige, atá cosúil le raithneach, a fheiceáil i gcaitheamh na bliana ar fad.