



Purging buckthorn leaves and fruit / Duillí agus toradh an Phaide Bhréin

Buckthorn, Purging *Rhamnus catharticus*

An uncommon shrub, Purging Buckthorn can be found growing around turloughs and rocky lake shores in the south of the county, and along the shores of Lough Corrib. It is largely confined to areas with lime-rich soils. Buckthorn has attractive bright green, glossy foliage and shiny red berries that eventually turn black. The leaves turn yellow in the autumn. Purging Buckthorn is the main food plant for the Brimstone Butterfly. It was an important medicinal tree in ancient times with its purging berries and bark, and was used up until recent times as a laxative.

Cherry

Bird Cherry *Prunus padus*

Wild Cherry (Crann silíní fiáin) *Prunus avium*

There are two native species of cherry in Ireland, the common wild cherry and bird cherry. Wild Cherry has a preference for slightly acid soils but will do well on deep loams over limestone. Bird Cherry is found in damp soils in the wild but will tolerate drier sites (acid to neutral soils). Wild Cherry is usually found growing in hedgerows but sometimes occurs in woodlands. Bird Cherry is an uncommon species mainly found in damp woods in the northwest of the country. There are, however, a few records of Bird Cherry in east County Galway - along the Woodford River and near Gort.

Both cherries are widely planted as they are both highly attractive small to medium sized trees well-suited to gardens. Wild Cherry produces masses of beautiful white flowers in clusters while the almond-scented white flowers of Bird Cherry are arranged on long spikes. Cherry tree leaves turn shades of yellow, pink and orange in the autumn.



Bird cherry in flower / An Donnroisc faoi bhláth.

(Wild Cherry/ Crann silíní fiáin)

An Paide Bréan *Rhamnus catharticus*

Is tom neamhchoitianta atá sa phaide bréan, a fhaightear ag fás thart timpeall ar thurlaigh agus ar bhruacha creagacha lochanna i ndeisceart an chontae, agus ar feadh chladach Loch Coirib. Bíonn sé teorannaithe do cheantair ina bhfuil ithreacha ar mórán aoil, den chuid is mó. Tá duilliúr uaine, geal, snasta ar an bpaide bréan agus caora dearga lonracha a dtagann dath dubh orthu ar deireadh. Tagann dath buí ar na duillí san fhómhar. Is é an paide bréan an príomhphlanda a itheann an bhuíóg ruibheach. Ba thom tábhachtach leigheasach, lena choirt agus a chaora purgóideacha, a bhí ann sa sean-am, agus d'úsáidti go dí le gairid mar phurgóid é.

An Silín

An Donnroisc *Prunus padus*

An Crann Silíní Fiáin *Prunus avium*

Tá dhá speiceas dhúchasacha den silín in Éirinn, an crann silíní fiáin agus an donnroisc. Is fearr leis an silín fiáin ithreacha atá beagán aigéadach ach rathaíonn sé ar dhúrabháin dhoimhne os cionn aolchloiche. Faightear an donnroisc in ithreacha taise san fhiántas ach cuireann siad suas le láithreacha tirime (ithreacha aigéadacha nó neodracha). Faightear an silín fiáin ag fás i bhfálta sceach de ghnáth, ach uaireanta faightear i gcoillearnacha iad. Is speiceas neamhghnách atá sa donnroisc a fhaightear den chuid is mó i gcoillte taise in iarthuaisceart an chontae. Tá roinnt taifead, áfach, den donnroisc in oirthear chontae na Gaillimhe - ar feadh Abhainn na Gráige agus gar don Ghort.

Cuirtear an dá chineál silín go forleathan mar gur crainn bheaga nó mheánmhéide iad atá an-mhaisiúil agus oiriúnach do ghairdíní. Cuireann an silín fiáin amach raidhse bláthanna bána áille i mbraislí agus bíonn bláthanna bána an donnroisc a bhfuil cumhra almóinne orthu feistithe ar bhioranna fada. Tagann imireacha buí, bándearga agus flannbhuí ar dhuillí an tsilín san fhómhar.





Elder leaves and berries / Duillí agus caora Iroim

Elder *Sambucus nigra*

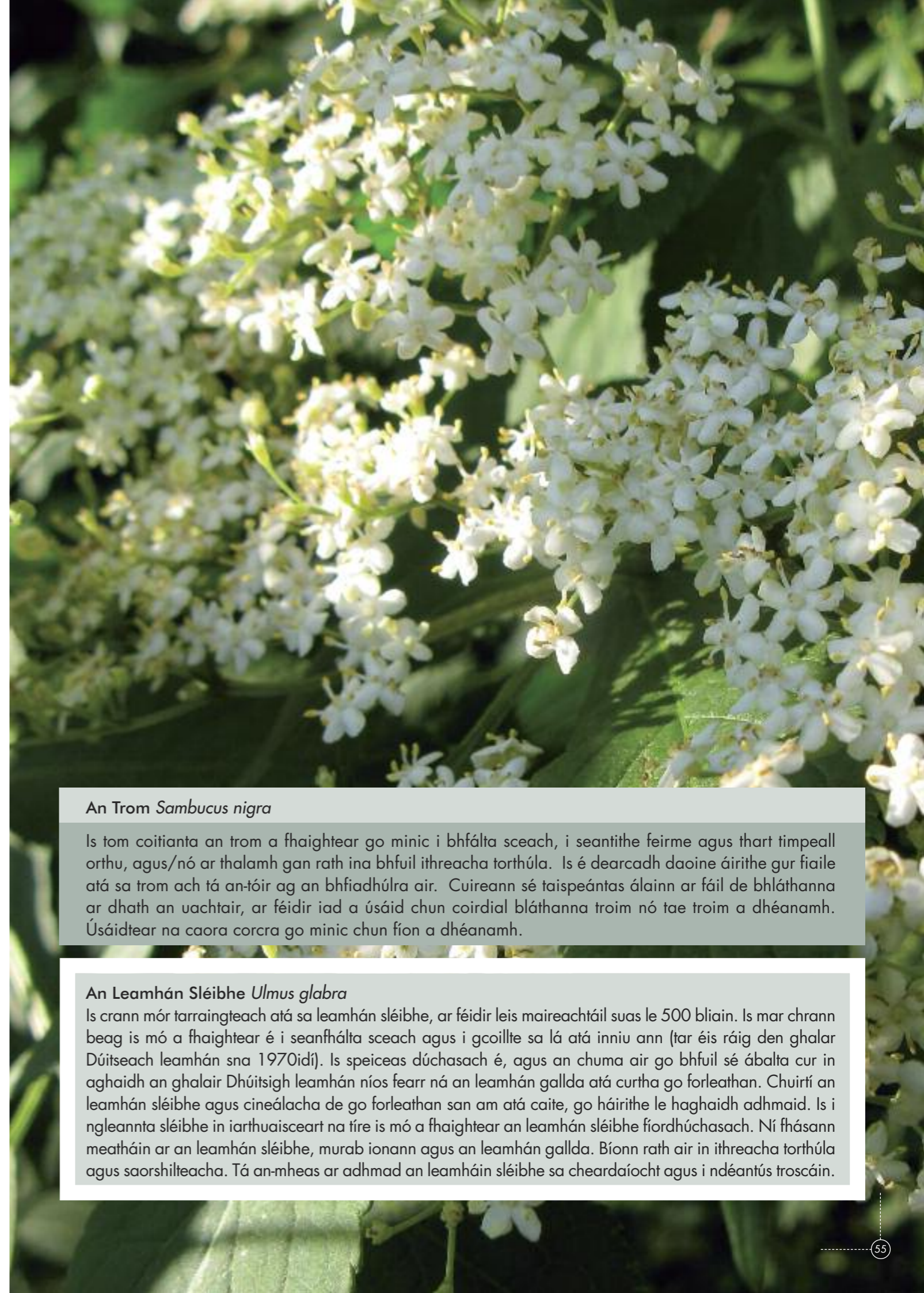
Elder is a common shrub often found in hedgerows, in and around old farmhouses, and/or on waste land where there are fertile soils. Some people consider Elder a weed but it is highly valued by wildlife. It produces beautiful splays of creamy-coloured flowers which can be used to make elderflower cordial or dried to make elderflower tea. The purple berries are also often used to make wine.



Wych elm leaves / Duillí an Leamháin Sléibhe

Elm, Wych *Ulmus glabra*

Wych Elm is a large, attractive tree that can live for up to 500 years. It mostly occurs in old hedgerows and woods as a small tree today (following the outbreak of Dutch Elm Disease in the 1970s). A native species, Wych Elm appears more resistant to Dutch Elm Disease than the widely planted English Elm. Wych Elm and varieties of it were also widely planted in the past, mostly for timber. Truly native Wych Elm is mainly found today in mountain glens in the northwest of the country. Wych Elm doesn't produce suckers, unlike English Elm. It thrives in fertile and free draining soils. Elm wood is highly valued for crafts and furniture making.



An Trom *Sambucus nigra*

Is tom coitianta an trom a fhaightear go minic i bhfálta sreach, i seantithe feirme agus thart timpeall orthu, agus/nó ar thalamh gan rath ina bhfuil ithreacha torthúla. Is é dearcadh daoine áirithe gur fiaile atá sa trom ach tá an-tóir ag an bhfiadhúlra air. Cuireann sé taispeántas álainn ar fáil de bhláthanna ar dhath an uachtair, ar féidir iad a úsáid chun coirdial bláthanna troim nó tae troim a dhéanamh. Úsáidtear na caora corcra go minic chun fíon a dhéanamh.

An Leamhán Sléibhe *Ulmus glabra*

Is crann mór tarraingteach atá sa leamhán sléibhe, ar féidir leis maireachtáil suas le 500 bliain. Is mar chrann beag is mó a fhaightear é i seanfhálta sreach agus i gcoillte sa lá atá inniu ann (tar éis ráig den ghalair Dhúitsigh leamhán sna 1970idí). Is speiceas dúchasach é, agus an chuma air go bhfuil sé ábalta cur in aghaidh an ghalair Dhúitsigh leamhán níos fearr ná an leamhán gallda atá curtha go forleathan. Chuirfí an leamhán sléibhe agus cineálacha de go forleathan san am atá caite, go háirithe le haghaidh adhmaid. Is i ngleannta sléibhe in iarthuaisceart na tíre is mó a fhaightear an leamhán sléibhe fíordhúchasach. Ní fhásann meatháin ar an leamhán sléibhe, murab ionann agus an leamhán gallda. Bíonn rath air in ithreacha torthúla agus saorshilteacha. Tá an-mheas ar adhmaid an leamháin sléibhe sa cheardaíocht agus i ndéantús troscáin.



Hawthorn in flower / An Sceach Gheal faoi bhláth



Hazel leaves and nuts / Duillí agus cnónna an Choill



Holly leaves and berries / Duillí agus caora an Chuilinn

Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*

Our most common hedgerow shrub, Hawthorn (also called Whitethorn) can put on a stunning display of white flowers in spring and red berries in late summer and autumn. The leaves of Hawthorn are lobed which differentiates it from Blackthorn, which has simple, oval-shaped leaves. The thorny stems of Hawthorn make it highly suited to forming stock-proof hedgerows. It flowers and fruits prolifically if uncut. Hawthorn will grow in a wide range of soils although it prefers neutral to lime-rich soils with a medium to heavy texture. A hardy plant, it tolerates exposed locations and grows well in industrial sites. There is a rich folklore associated with Hawthorn and it is commonly found near holy wells. It has a high wildlife value as the early flowers are visited by insects and the fruits are much sought after, especially by insects and birds. Hawthorn also provides good cover for nesting and roosting birds.

Hazel *Corylus avellana*

A small tree or shrub, Hazel is commonly found growing in hedgerows, as part of the understory in Oak and Ash woodlands, or in stands of pure Hazel scrub. Hazel prefers heavy, fertile, neutral to lime-rich soils which are well-drained. It grows well on hillsides and steep banks. Hazel also coppices well (i.e. produces more shoots when cut at the base). The delicate catkins (clusters of tiny flowers) appear in the spring before the leaves appear on the trees. In autumn the leaves turn various shades of yellow and brown, and the hazelnuts are of huge interest to wildlife.

Holly *Ilex aquifolium*

Holly is one of the few native broad-leaved evergreen trees in Ireland. It can be found growing in a wide range of conditions and soils including mature woodland (where it can survive deep shade), in hedgerows and even on limestone pavement. A highly attractive small tree, Holly is very suitable for gardens as a specimen tree or as a hedge. It grows slowly and is therefore perfect for the small garden. Holly trees are either male or female so it is worth planting several together to ensure you have both sexes as only the female flowers produce berries. Holly is tolerant of exposed sites and makes a wonderful high sheltering screen or hedge although it is slow-growing. It has been used throughout the ages for medicinal purposes, for timber carving and as a decoration to celebrate Christmas. Birds love holly berries, particularly thrushes. Holly provides good roosting sites for birds in winter. It is the main food plant of the Holly Blue Butterfly.

An Sceach Gheal *Crataegus monogyna*

Is féidir lenár dtom fála sceach dúchasach is forleithne, an sceach gheal, taispeántas fíorlainn bláthanna bána san earrach agus caor dearg i ndeireadh an tsamhraidh agus san fhómhar a chur ar fáil. Tá duillí maothánacha ar an sceach gheal, rud a dhéanann idirdhealú idir é agus an draighean, a bhfuil duillí simplí ubhchruthacha air. Tá gais dheilgneacha na sceiche gile i bhfálta sceach an-oiriúnach le haghaidh stoc a choimeád i ngabhann. Bláthaíonn sé agus torthaíonn sé go flúirseach mura ngearrtar é. Fásfaidh an sceach gheal i raon leathan ithreacha, cé gur fearr leis ithreacha atá neodrach nó atá ar mórán aoil agus uigeacht mheánach nó throm acu. Is planda crua é, ní chuireann láithreacha rite isteach air agus fásann sé go maith ar shuíomhanna tionsclaíochta. Tá seanchas saibhir ag baint leis an sceach gheal agus faightear go minic é gar do thoibreacha beannaithe. Tá sé luachmhar ó thaobh an fhiadhúlra de mar go dtugann feithidí cuairt ar na bláthanna luatha agus go mbíonn an-tóir ar na torthaí, go háirithe ag feithidí agus ag éin. Tugann an sceach gheal cumhdach maith d'éin ghoir agus d'éin ar fara.

An Coll *Corylus avellana*

Faightear an coll, crann beag nó tom, ag fás go coitianta i bhfálta sceach, mar chuid den tsraith mheánach i gcoillearnacha darach agus fuinseog, nó i gclampaí de scrobarnach ghlan coill. Is fearr leis an gcoll ithreacha troma, torthúla, saorshilteacha atá neodrach nó ar mórán aoil. Fásann sé go maith ar thaobhanna cnoic agus ar bhruacha géara. Déanann sé roschoill mhaith, freisin (i.e. táirgeann sé péacáin bhreise nuair a ghearrtar ag an mbun é). Tagann na caitíní fíneálta (braislí bláthanna bídeacha) air san earrach sula bhfeictear na duillí ar an gcrann. San fhómhar tagann imireacha éagsúla buí agus donna ar na duillí, agus bíonn an-suim ag an bhfiadhúlra sna cnónna coill.

An Cuileann *Ilex aquifolium*

Tá an cuileann ar cheann den bheagán crann leathanduilleach síorghlas dúchasach in Éirinn. Is féidir é a fháil ag fás faoi raon leathan cúinsí agus in ithreacha éagsúla, coillearnach lánfhásta san áireamh (áit ar féidir leis maireachtáil faoi scáth dorcha), i bhfálta sceach agus fiú amháin ar leaca aolchloiche. Is crann beag an-tarraingteach atá sa chuileann agus tá sé an-oiriúnach i ngairdíní mar chrann taispeántais nó mar fhál. Fásann sé go mall agus dá bhrí sin tá sé ar fheabhas le haghaidh an ghairdín bhig. Tá an crann cuilinn bainneannach nó fireannach, mar sin is fiú roinnt díobh a chur le chéile lena chinntiú go gcuireann tú an dá ghnéas, mar gurb iad na bláthanna bainneannacha amháin a tháirgeann na caora. Tá an cuileann in ann cur suas le suíomhanna rite agus déanann sé fál breá ard foscaidh cé go bhfásann sé go mall. Tá sé á úsáid ar feadh na gcianta i gcomhair leighis, i snoí adhmaid agus mar mhaisiúchán leis an Nollaig a cheiliúradh. Is aoibhinn le héin, go háirithe an smólach, caora an chuilinn. Cuireann an cuileann láithreacha fara ar fáil do na héin sa gheimhreadh. Is é an príomhphlanda bia ag an ngormán cuilinn.





Juniper leaves and berries / Duillí agus caora an Aitill

Juniper *Juniperus communis*

Juniper is commonly found growing on bare limestone, and at high elevations in upland areas. It is highly tolerant of exposure. Although it can grow into a small tree (upright forms can be seen on the shore of Lough Derg in Portumna Forest Park) it usually forms a low spreading shrub following the contours of the rock. One of our few native evergreens, Juniper is an unusual but attractive shrub. The berries of Juniper are used commercially to flavour gin.

Oak

Sessile oak *Quercus petraea*

Pedunculate oak (Dair ghallda) *Quercus robur*

Oaks are large woodland trees that would have formed one of the main components of Ireland's primeval woodlands. They can grow to a great size and live to a very old age. There are two native species of Oak in Ireland, Sessile oak and Pedunculate oak. Sessile oak can tolerate acidic and poor soils such as those in Conamara and the Slieve Aughty Mountains.

Pedunculate Oak or English oak generally grows in areas with heavy lowland soils (neutral and lime-rich) and can withstand wet soil in winter. It can be found in wooded areas with deeper soils, around turlough basins and old demesnes or estates such as Coole Park, near Gort.

Oaks produce high quality timber and have been highly prized for centuries for their fine timber. They are renowned for their enormous wildlife value as they provide food and shelter for numerous types of insects, as well as many kinds of birds, bats and small mammals.

The reddish colour of the sails of Galway hookers was made by soaking the sails in water with oak bark. Tannins from the bark acted as a preservative.



Sessile Oak /An Dair Ghaelach (County Galway Significant Tree Survey)



Sessile Oak leaves and flowers in spring / Duillí agus bláthanna na Darach Gallda san earrach



An tAiteal *Juniperus communis*

Faightear an t-aiteal ag fás go coitianta ar aolchloch nocht agus ar airdí ar thailte arda. Tá sé in ann cur suas go han-mhaith le nochtadh. Cé gur féidir leis fás ina chrann beag (is féidir cineálacha ceartseasmhacha a fheiceáil ar bhruach Loch Deirgeirt i bPáirc Foraoise Phort Omna) is gnách go ndéanann sé tom íseal reatha a leanann comhrianta na carraige. Tá an t-aiteal ar cheann dár mbeagán crann síorghlas dúchasach agus is tom neamhghnách ach tarraingteach atá ann. Úsáidtear caora an aitil, ar bhun tráchtála, chun blas a chur ar jin.

An Dair

An Dair Ghaelach *Quercus petraea*

An Dair Ghallda *Quercus robur*

Is crainn mhóra choillearnaí na daracha agus bhí siad ar cheann de na príomhchrainn i gcoillearnacha cianaosta na hÉireann. Is féidir leo fás go méid an-mhór agus aois an-mhór a bhaint amach. Tá dhá speiceas dhúchasacha darach in Éirinn, an dair ghaelach agus an dair ghallda. Is féidir leis an dair ghaelach cur suas le hithreacha bochta agus aigéadacha, mar atá i gConamara agus i Sliabh Eachtaí.

Fásann an dair ghallda de ghnáth i limistéir ina bhfuil ithreacha troma ísealchríche (neodrach agus ar mórán aoil) agus is féidir leis cur suas le hithir fhliuch sa gheimhreadh. Is féidir teacht air i gceantair faoi choillte ina bhfuil ithreacha níos doimhne, thart timpeall ar loch-chuacha turlaigh agus i ndiméinte agus in eastáit sheanbhunaithe, leithéid Pháirc na Cúile, gar don Ghort.

Táirgeann daracha adhmad d'ardchaighdeán agus tá an-mheas orthu ar feadh na gcéadta bliain de bharr a n-adhmaid bhreá. Tá cáil orthumar gheall ar a rithábacht don fhiadhúlra mar go gcuireann siad bia agus foscadh ar fáil le haghaidh an iliomad cineálacha feithide, chomh maith le go leor cineálacha éan, ialtóg agus mamach beag.

Thagadh an dath deargdhonn ar sheolta húicéirí na Gaillimhe nuair a chuirí ar maos iad in uisce le bárc na darach. D'oibríodh tainníní ó mbárc mar leasaitheach.



Rowan leaves and flowers / Duillí agus bláthanna an Chaorthainn

Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*

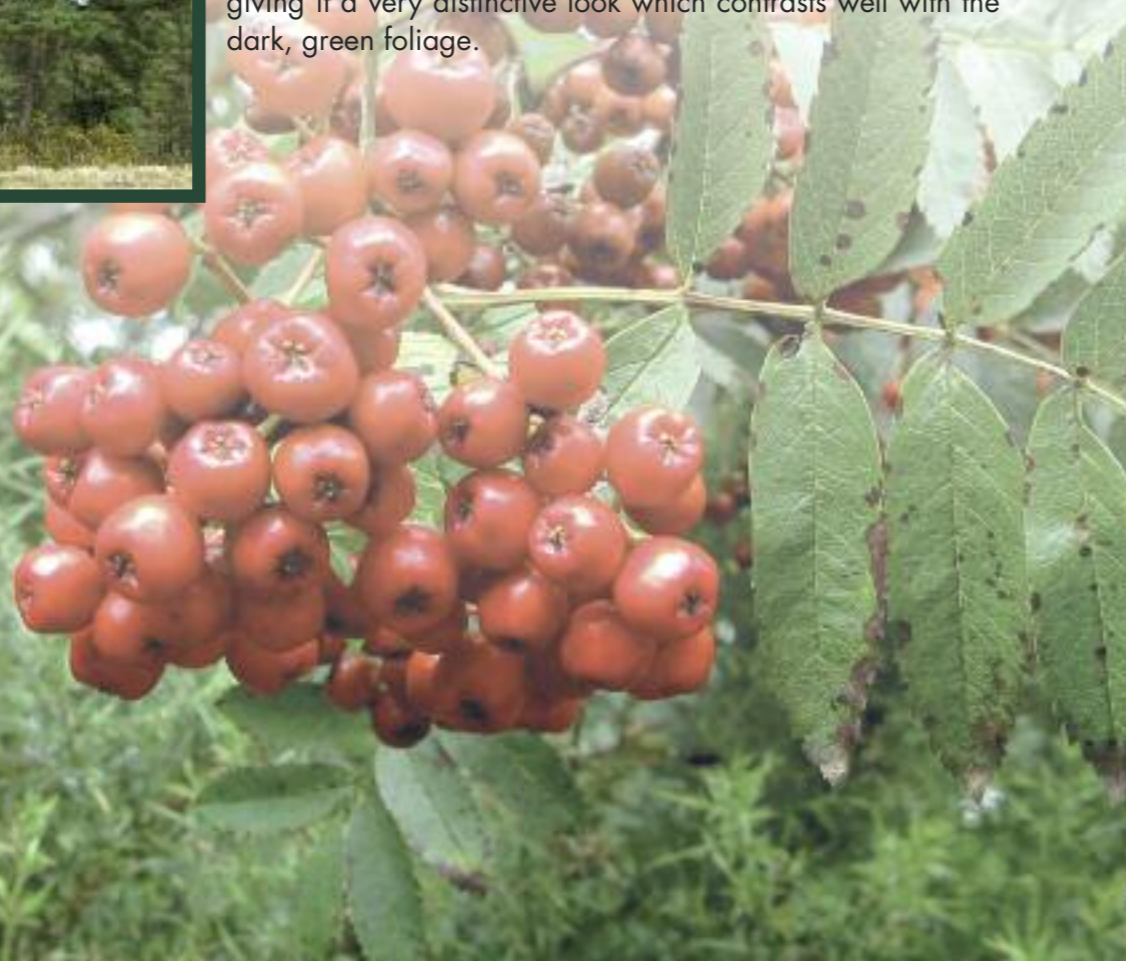
Rowan or mountain ash is a highly attractive, small tree. It is widely planted in gardens and parks. Rowan produces clusters of beautiful creamy-white flowers in spring and orange-red berries in late summer. The leaves turn various shades of yellow, orange and bright red in autumn. It generally prefers well-drained, acid to neutral soils, but is a hardy tree and can tolerate a wide range of conditions including uplands and rocky ground. Birds love Rowan berries, especially Mistle Thrushes and Blackbirds. Rowan jelly, made from the berries, was traditionally eaten with game. Rowan has also been traditionally used for good luck, good health and to ward off evil spirits!

Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*

Scots pine is strictly speaking not a native tree as it is thought to have become extinct in Ireland in medieval times. It is, nevertheless, a large attractive conifer, which was once common in the west. Scots Pine can grow on marginal soils where other trees would not thrive and is tolerant of exposed sites (but not areas with salt-laden winds). It prefers light, sandy soils that are acid to neutral and can grow on marginal land with poor soils. The bark of Scots Pine has an orangey shade giving it a very distinctive look which contrasts well with the dark, green foliage.



Scots Pine / An Péine Albanach

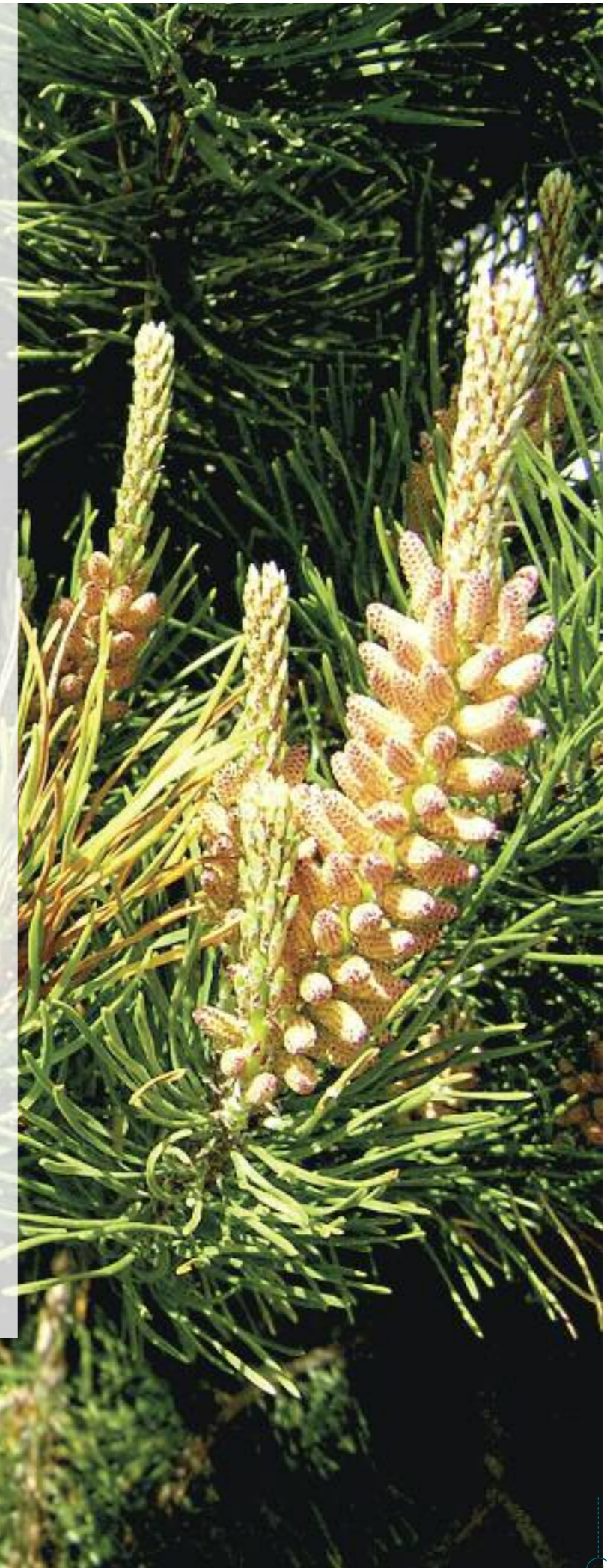


An Caorthann *Sorbus aucuparia*

Is crann beag an-tarraingteach atá sa chrann caorthainn. Cuirtear go forleathan é i ngairdíní agus i bpáirceanna. Cuireann an caorthann amach braislí bláthanna áille buíbhána san earrach agus caora cróchdhearga i ndeireadh an tsamhraidh. Tagann imireacha éagsúla buí, flannbhuí agus dearga ar na duillí san fhómhar. Is gnách gur ithreacha saorshilteacha, idir aigéadach agus neodrach, is fearr leis ach is crann crua atá ann agus é in ann cur suas le raon leathan cúinsí, tailte arda agus talamh carraigeach ina measc. Is breá le héin caora an chaorthainn, go háirithe an liatráisc agus an lon dubh. D’íirí glóthach caorthainn, a dhéantaí as na caora, le géim de ghnáth. Sa traidisiún, bhí cáil an áidh agus na sláinte ar an gcaorthann agus d’úsáidí é le deamhain a ruaigeadh!

An Péine Albanach *Pinus sylvestris*

De dhéanta na firinne, ní crann dúchasach atá sa phéine Albanach, mar go bhfuiltear den tuairim gur díothaíodh é in Éirinn sa Mheánaois. Mar sin fein, is crann mór tarraingteach atá ann, a bhí forleathan uair amháin san iarthar. Is féidir leis an bpéine Albanach fás ar ithreacha meath-thorthúla, áit nach rathaíonn crainn eile, agus is féidir leis cur suas le láithreacha rite (ach amháin sa chás go mbíonn an ghaoth luchtaithe le salann). Is fearr leis solas agus ithreacha gainmheacha, atá idir aigéadach agus neodrach, agus is féidir leis fás ar thalamh meath-thorthúil le hithreacha bochta. Tá imir fhlanbhuí ar choirt an phéine Albanaigh, rud a chuireann cuma shuaitheanach air atá i gcodarsnacht leis an duilliúr uaine dorcha.





Spindle *Euonymus europaeus*

Spindle is a hedgerow and woodland shrub that is relatively common but is often overlooked as it is inconspicuous for much of the year. In autumn, however, the leaves turn a beautiful orangey-pink and it produces stunning bright pink berries that split to reveal the orange seed inside. Spindle prefers lime-rich soils but tolerates a wide range of soils. Spindle was traditionally used to make spindles for spinning wheels, hence the name.



Whitebeam *Sorbus aria*

There are a few native species of Whitebeam found growing in Ireland although true native Whitebeams are quite rare. They are widely planted, however, in towns and parks, and in road-planting schemes because of their ornamental qualities. Whitebeams have blue-green leaves that are pale green underneath; they produce clusters of bright red berries. Most prefer lime-rich soils but will grow in a wide range of conditions. They tolerate coastal exposure, rocky ground, some shade and damp sites. The most widespread native Whitebeam is *Sorbus aria*, which occurs in Galway often on limestone pavement. Like Rowan, Whitebeams produce clusters of bright red or orange berries in autumn, which are highly prized by birds.



Willow/Sally *Salix*

There are several native Willows in Ireland and they all grow in damp soils often along river and lake edges. The most widespread Willow species in Ireland are the Goat Willow, the Rusty or Grey willow (both known as Sallies) and the Eared-willow. Willow flowers provide an important source of pollen and nectar for insects as they appear in early spring. Although the flowers are borne in catkins (clusters of tiny flowers with no petals, composed of either male or female flowers), they are pollinated by insects. Most Willows are easy to grow from cuttings and are fast-growing. Willows are widely used for basket making due to their flexible stems (mainly the species with the long, pointed leaves, the osiers).

An Feoras *Euonymus europaeus*

Is tom fála sreach agus coillearnach atá san fheoras atá forleathan go maith ach is minic a ligtear i ndearmad é mar go mbíonn sé neamshuntasach ar feadh chuid mhaith den bhliain. San fhómhar, áfach, tagann dath álainn idir bhándearg agus flannbhúí air, agus tagann caora bándearga geala fíoráille air a scoilteann agus a nochtann an síol flannbhúí istigh. Is fearr leis an bhfeoras ithreacha ar mórán aoil ach cuireann sé suas le raon leathan ithreacha. D'úsáidí an feoras go traidisiúnta chun fearsaidí a dhéanamh le haghaidh tuirní.

An Fionncholl *Sorbus aria*

Faightear roinnt bheag speiceas dúchasach den fhionncholl ag fás in Éirinn, cé gur fánach go maith atá an fionncholl dúchasach ceart. Cuirtear go forleathan iad, áfach, i mbailte agus i bpáirceanna agus i scéimeanna ina gcuirtear crainn ar thaobh bóithre mar gheall ar a dtréithe ornáideacha. Tá duilli gormuaine, atá uaine éadrom fúthu, ar an bhfionncholl; táirgeann siad braislí caor dearg glé. Is fearr leis an gcuid is mó díobh ithreacha ar mórán aoil ach fásfaidh siad faoi raon leathan cúinsí. Tá siad in ann cur suas le nochtadh ar an gcósta, le talamh carraigeach, le roinnt scátha agus le láithreacha taise. Is é *Sorbus aria*, a fhásann go minic ar leaca aolchloiche i nGaillimh, an fionncholl dúchasach is forleithne. Ach an oiread leis an gcaorthann, táirgeann an fionncholl braislí caor dearg agus flannbhúí san fhómhar, a bhfuil an-tóir ag éin orthu.

An tSaileach *Salix*

Tá roinnt saileach dúchasach in Éirinn agus fásann siad go léir in ithreacha taise, go minic ar bhruacha aibhneacha agus lochanna. Is iad na speicis sailí is forleithne in Éirinn an tsailchearnach, an tsaileach liath nó an tsaileach rua, agus an crann sníofa. Is foinse thábhachtach pailne agus neachtair do na feithidí iad bláthanna na sailí, mar go dtagann siad amach go luath san earrach. Cé go n-íompraítear na bláthanna i gcaitíní (braislí bláthanna bídeacha gan aon pheiteal, iad fireannach nó baineannach), pailníonn feithidí iad. Tá sé furasta an chuid is mó de na saileacha a fhás ó ghearrthóga agus fásann siad go tapa. Usáidtear saileacha i gcaoladóireacht, mar gheall ar a ngais sholúbtha (go háirithe an speiceas leis na duillí fada bioracha, na saileánaigh).

