



GALWAY'S LIVING LANDSCAPES
PART 2: TREES AND WOODLAND

TÍRDHREACHA BEO NA GAILLIMHE
CUID 2: CRAINN AGUS COILLEARNACH



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Steering Group/ Editorial Team: Dónal Keegan, Marie Mannion, Elaine O’Riordan, Miriam Stewart and Pádraic de Bhaldráithe

Text: Dr Janice Fuller, Consultant Ecologist (www.janicefuller.ie)

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Grúpa Stiúrtha/Foireann Eagarthóireachta: Dónal Keegan, Marie Mannion, Elaine O’Riordan, Miriam Stewart agus Pádraic de Bhaldráithe

Téacs: Dr Janice Fuller, Comhairleoir Éiceolaíochta (www.janicefuller.ie)

Fótagraif: Dr Janice Fuller (mura luaitear a mhalairt)

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Guelder Rose in autumn / Caor Chon san fhómhar

INTRODUCTION This book aims to demonstrate the many benefits trees have for people, landscapes, wildlife and the environment. It highlights our long association with trees and rich tree heritage in Galway. It celebrates trees and tree-culture, provides information on how to plant and protect trees, and hopefully will inspire people to plant more trees, and to protect our native woodlands. Trees and woods are an integral part of Galway's 'living landscapes'.

The strong connection our ancestors had with trees became a distant memory when our woodlands were reduced to tiny remnants of their former glory by the 18th century. People are starting to reconnect with trees and woodlands as they seek to add something special to their gardens and community spaces, farms and fields, and more and more people are out enjoying woodlands for walking and exploring. Many people and communities are going native when planting trees and choosing from the array of beautiful trees and shrubs that are native to Ireland. As well as their aesthetic and recreational value, trees and woods represent an invaluable resource which if used sustainably has the potential to provide timber and environmental benefits for generations.



Bluebell Woods in Woodville Garden
Coillte Coinnle Corra i nGairdín
Woodville (David Ruffles)

RÉAMHRÁ

Tá sé mar aidhm ag an leabhar seo an iliomad tairbhí atá ag crainn don duine, do thírdhreacha, don fhiadhúlra agus don chomhshaol a léiriú.

Cuirtear béim ar an gceangal fada atá againn le crainn agus le hoidhreacht shaibhir na gcrann i nGaillimh. Déantar ceiliúradh ar chrainn agus ar chultúr na gcrann, tugtar faisnéis ar an gcaoi le crainn a chur agus a chosaint, agus táthar ag súil go spreagfaidh sé daoine le tuilleadh crann a chur agus lenár gcoillearnacha dúchasacha a chosaint. Is cuid dhílis de 'thírdhreacha beo' na Gaillimhe iad na crainn agus na coillte.

D'imigh an ceangal láidir a bhí ag ár sinsear le crainn as cuimhne na ndaoine nuair a laghdaíodh ár gcoillearnacha roimh an 18ú haois go dtí iarsmaí bídeacha díobh mar a bhí siad agus iad i mbarr a réime. Tá athcheangal á dhéanamh ag daoine le crainn agus le coillearnacha agus iad ag iarraidh rud éigin speisialta a chur lena ngairdíní agus a spáis phoiblí, a bhfeirmeacha agus a bpáirceanna agus de réir a chéile tá níos mó daoine amuigh ag baint taitnimh as coillearnacha i gcomhair siúlóide agus taiscéalaíochta. Tá cuid mhaith daoine agus pobal ag díriú ar a ndúchas nuair atá crainn á gcur agus rogha á dhéanamh acu ón réimse crann agus tom álainn atá dúchasach in Éirinn. Chomh maith lena luach aeistéitiúil agus áineasa, is acmhainn fhíorluachmhar na crainn agus na coillte, agus má úsáidtear ar bhealach inbhuanaithe í tá an cumas inti adhmad agus tairbhe comshaoil a sholáthar do na glúine amach anseo.



Willow catkins
Caitíní Sailí



Long-tailed Tit (Colin Stanley) / Meantán Earrfhada



THE WONDER OF TREES

Trees can take our breath away. We are filled with awe and wonder at the sight of an ancient gnarled and twisted oak tree, festooned with ferns and encrusted with lichens. We marvel at the sight of a little holly tree glistening green and red on a bitterly cold winter's day when everything else is bare and twiggy. We are delighted to see the fresh, green shoots of hazel and birch and oak unfolding in spring, signalling the imminent arrival of summer and longer, warmer days.

Trees inspire. For generations, trees have been recorded and celebrated in poems, songs, stories and place names. Trees bear silent witness to the passing of time. Ancient trees have lived through feast and famine, war and peace, the coldest of winters and warmest of summers. Trees enhance our rural landscapes - lone majestic trees in fields, wild woods that invite adventure, scrubby hillsides a blazon with colour in spring and autumn, and hedgerows that criss-cross the countryside and teem with life in summer. Trees soften the edges of urban areas, adding colour, texture, life and interest to our towns and villages. The solemn yew adds gravitas to historic graveyards. Trees have long provided us with shelter and protection, fuel and food, the air we breathe.



Holly and Spindle /
Cuileann agus Feoras



IONTAS NA GCRANN

Is féidir le crainn an anáil a bhaint dínn. Bíonn uamhan agus iontas orainn nuair a fheicimid crann ársa darach fadharcánach agus casta, maisithe le raitheach agus screamhaithe le léicin. Déanaimid iontas de radharc de chrann beag cuilinn agus é ag glioscarnach faoi uaine agus faoi dhearg ar lá fuar feannta nuair atá gach rud eile lom agus craobhach. Bíonn áthas orainn péacáin úra uaine an choill, na beithe agus na darach a fheiceáil á nochtadh féin san earrach, iad ag tabhairt le fios go bhfuiltear ar thairseach an tsamhraidh agus go bhfuil laethanta fada te ar an mbealach.

Spreagann crainn. Ar feadh na nglún, taifeadadh agus ceiliúradh crainn i ndánta, in amhráin, i scéalta agus i logainmneacha. Déanann na crainn fianaise le meilt na haimsire. Mhair crainn ársa trí thréimhsí féasta agus gorta, cogaidh agus síochána, agus tháinig siad slán as na geimhrí ab fheannta agus na samhraí ba theo. Cuireann crainn lenár dtírdhreacha tuaithe - crainn mhaorga aonair i bpáirceanna, coillte fhiáine a ghríosáíonn an taiscéalaíocht, cliatháin chnoic faoi scrobarnach lonrach ildaite san earrach agus san fhómhar agus fála sceaigh a thrasnaíonn an tuath agus iad beo beathach sa samhradh. Maolaíonn crainn colbhaí na gceantar uirbeach agus cuireann dath, uigeacht, beocht agus ábhar spéise inár mbailte agus inár sráidbhailte. Cuireann an t-iúr sollúnta le *gravitas* na reiligí stairiúla. Tá foscadh agus cosaint, breosla agus bia, agus an t-aer a anáilimid á soláthar ag crainn dúinn le fada an lá.



Wood Anemone / Lus na Gaoithe



Hazel catkins / Caitíní Coill

Woodlands are wonderful places to visit and explore because they are always changing; over seasons, years, decades and centuries. Irish woodlands in winter are bare and bright places. Spring is heralded by the appearance of flowers on the woodland floor. These beautiful spring flowers - Lesser Celandine, Wood Anemone and Wood Sorrel - flower before the leaves appear on the trees casting a dense shade. Wind-pollinated trees such as Hazel, Alder and Birch have special flowers called catkins, which also appear before the leaves so that the pollen can be blown about easily. As leaves start to unfurl in the woodland canopy, other woodland flowers such as Bluebells and Wild Garlic make an appearance. Still others can cope with low light levels and appear in summer - Violets, Herb Robert, Enchanter's Nightshade and Lords and Ladies. In autumn, the green woodland canopy changes to browns, reds and yellows as the cooler evenings draw in and the days shorten.

TREES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Our environment benefits greatly from trees, hedgerows and woodland. Trees take up the gas carbon dioxide (CO₂) as they grow, converting it into solid carbon i.e. wood, and releasing oxygen. In this way, they can act as carbon stores for as long as they are alive, which may be decades or centuries. Globally, woodlands and forests are hugely important as carbon stores. Wide-scale deforestation has led to increases in atmospheric CO₂ and decreased the Earth's capacity to take up CO₂. The rise in atmospheric CO₂ is thought to be one of the main drivers of global climate change.

Trees on the landscape also intercept a considerable amount of water thus helping to prevent soil erosion and flooding. In urban environments the leaves of trees take up airborne pollutants and help keep the air we breathe clean.



Hawthorn in a cold winter / Sceach Gheal sa gheimhreadh



Ancient Oak woodland in Derrycrag, Woodford
Coillearnach Darach ársa i nDoire Chraige, An Ghráig

Is áiteanna iontacha iad na coillearnacha le cuairt agus turas a thabhairt orthu mar go mbíonn siad go síoraí ag athrú; thar na séasúir, na blianta, na scórtha agus na céadta bliain. Is láithreacha loma agus geala iad coillearnacha na hÉireann sa gheimhreadh. Fógraítear tús an earraigh le nochtadh bláthanna ar urlár na coillearnaí. Tagann na plandaí áille earraigh seo faoi bhláth - an grán arcáin, lus na gaoithe agus an tseamsóg - sula bhfeictear na duillí ar na crainn agus a gcaitheann siad scáth dlúth fúthu. Bíonn bláthanna speisialta, ar a dtugtar caitíní, agus a bhíonn le feiceáil roimh na duillí ionas gur féidir an pailín a scaipeadh thart go héasca, ar chrainn ghaothphailnithe, amhail an coll, an fhearnóg agus an bheith. De réir mar a bhíonn duillí ag oscailt i gceannbhrat na coillearnaí, nochtar bláthanna eile amhail na coinnle corra agus an creamh. Tá cinn eile fós ann ar féidir leo cur suas le leibhéal íseal solais agus tagann siad faoi bhláth sa samhradh - an tsailchuach, an ruihéal rí, an fhuinseagach agus an chluas chaoín. San fhómhar, athraíonn dath an cheannbhrait go dathanna donna, dearga agus buí, de réir mar a théann na tráthnónta fuara i ngiorracht agus na laethanta ó sholas.

CRAINN AGUS AN COMHSHAOL

Is mór an sochar a bhaineann ár gcomhshaol as crainn, as fála sceaigh agus as coillearnach. Ionsúnn crainn dé-ocsaíd charbóin (CO₂) agus iad ag fás, á haistriú go carbón soladach, i.e. adhmaid, agus ocsaigin á scaoileadh acu. Ar an gcaoi sin, feidhmíonn siad mar stórtha carbóin, fad is a mhaireann siad, más na scórtha nó na céadta bliain é sin. Ar bhun domhanda, is rí-thábhachtach iad coillearnacha agus foraoiseacha mar stórtha carbóin. Tá méadú in CO₂ an atmaisféir agus laghdú i gcumas an domhain CO₂ a thógáil isteach mar thoradh ar an dífhoraísiú. Meastar gurb é an méadú in CO₂ an atmaisféir príomhchúis an athraithe in aeráid an domhain.

Ceapann crainn sa tírdhreach cuid mhaith uisce agus ar an gcaoi sin cuidíonn siad le creimeadh ithreach agus tuilte a chosc. I dtimpeallachtaí uirbeacha ionsúnn duillí crann truailléáin aeriompartha agus cuidíonn siad leis an aer a anáilimid a choinneáil glan.



Bracket Fungi / Bracfhungais



TREES AND BIODIVERSITY

Native woodlands often have a high diversity of different types of plants and animals because the layers within the woodland (e.g. canopy trees, understory shrubs, ground flora) provide a range of habitats for wildlife. Some woodland creatures and plants like to live high up in the canopy where there is lots of light and they are safe from predators or grazers; others prefer the humid, shady environment of the forest floor and tree trunks; and still others like to flit about between the woodland layers.

Trees are big and live for a long time! They change through the seasons and as they grow from seedling to mature tree. Trees, therefore, provide considerable resources for wildlife throughout their lifespan. A mature oak tree is often swathed with mosses, lichens and ferns, with a multitude of insects living in and around the bark and the foliage, while birds and bats perch and roost on the branches and in cavities.

Woodlands contain more types of plants than trees and shrubs. Climbing plants such as honeysuckle and ivy scramble up trees. Ferns seek out the shady nooks on trees and the woodland floor. Mosses, liverworts and lichens cover tree trunks and branches, dead wood, boulders and soil. Particular flowers that are suited to growing in the woodland habitat appear in spring and summer. Brambles, which can prove annoying for walkers but provide great cover for birds, can be abundant in woods. Fungi are found on dead wood as they help break down the woody structure and return the nutrients to the soil.

Woodlands create their own microclimate, which is generally more humid, sheltered and mild than the climate outside of the wood. Many plants that like the higher humidity and shady conditions such as mosses, liverworts and ferns are naturally at home in woods. Woodlands in Galway often have a diverse flora of mosses and liverworts due to the high rainfall for much of the year. Every boulder, tree trunk and fallen branch can be covered with a thick layer of mosses in these western woodlands.



CRAINN AGUS AN BHITHÉAGSÚLACHT

Is minic a bhíonn éagsúlacht mhór plandaí agus ainmhithe sna coillearnacha dúchasacha, mar go gcuireann na cisil sa choillearnach (e.g. crainn an cheannbhrait, toim na sraithe meánaí, flóra talún) raon gnáthóg ar fáil le haghaidh an fhiadhúlra. Is maith le hainmhithe agus plandaí áirithe maireachtáil go hard i gceannbhrait na coillearnaí, áit a mbíonn neart solais agus a mbíonn siad slán ó chreachadóirí agus ó ainmhithe innilte; is fearr le roinnt eile timpeallacht thais scáthach thalamh na foraoise agus stoic na gcrann; tá cinn eile fós ann a bhíonn ag imeacht anonn agus anall idir chisil na coillearnaí.

Is mór iad na crainn agus is fada a mhaireann siad! Athraíonn siad leis na séasúir agus de réir mar a fhásann siad ó shíológ go crann aibí. Mar sin, cuireann crainn acmhainní nach beag ar fáil don fhiadhúlra ar feadh a saoil. Is minic a bhíonn fallaing chaonaigh, léicin agus raitheanna ar chrann darach aibí, agus an iliomad feithidí ag maireachtáil sa choirt agus sa duilliúr agus thart timpeall orthu, agus éin agus ialtóga ar an bhfara ar na craobhacha agus i gcuasa.

Tá cineálacha plandaí eile i gcoillearnacha seachas crainn agus toim. Bíonn plandaí dreaptha mar an féithleann agus an eidhneán ag streachtailt aníos ar na crainn. Lorgaíonn raitheanna poill scáthacha ar chrainn agus ar thalamh na coillearnaí. Clúdaíonn caonaigh, aelusanna agus léicin stoic agus craobhacha na gcrann, adhmaid marbh, bolláin agus an ithir. Taispeántar bláthanna áirithe, atá in oiriúint le fás i ngnáthóg na coillearnaí, san earrach agus sa samhradh. Is féidir go mbíonn driseacha, ar mór an crá do shiúlóirí go minic iad ach a thugann clúdach maith d'éin, flúirseach i gcoillte. Faightear fungais ar adhmaid marbh agus tugann siad cúnaimh chun an struchtúr adhmaid a bhriseadh síos agus na cothaithe a chur ar ais san ithir.

Cruthaíonn coillearnacha a miocraeráid féin, a bhíonn níos taise, níos foscúla agus níos cineálta de ghnáth ná an aeráid taobh amuigh den choill. Bíonn go leor plandaí, a dtaitníonn taise níos airde agus cúinsí scáthacha leo, amhail caonaigh, aelusanna agus raitheanna, ar a gcompond go nádúrtha sna coillte. Is minic go mbíonn flóra ilchineálach caonach agus aelusanna i gcoillearnacha na Gaillimhe de bharr na báistí airde ar feadh cuid mhaith den bhliain. D'fhéadfadh gach bollán, stoc crainn agus craobh tite a bheith clúdaithe le screamh thiubh de chaonaigh sna coillearnacha seo san iarthar.

Maireann, póraíonn agus siortaíonn go leor éan sa ghnáthóg choillearnaí. I measc na n-éan sin bíonn an meantán mór, an meantán gorm, an snag, an creabhar, an colm cille, an siscín agus an ceann cait, chomh maith le cuairteoirí samhraidh amhail an tiuf-teaf, an ceolaire sailí agus an caipín dubh. Itheann siad inveirteabraigh (e.g. feithidí, péisteanna, seilidí) ar feadh cuid mhaith den bhliain, agus síolta agus cnónna le linn mhíonna an gheimhridh.





Bluebells / Coinnle Corra



Woodland fern / Raitheach Choillearnai



Woodland mosses on a tree trunk / Caonaigh choillearnai ar stoc crainn

Many birds live, breed and forage in the woodland habitat. These birds include residents such as Great Tit, Blue Tit, Tree Creepers, Woodcock, Wood Pigeon, Siskin and Long-eared Owls, and summer visitors like Chiffchaffs, Willow Warblers and Black Caps. They feed on invertebrates (e.g. insects, worms, snails) for much of the year, and then seeds and nuts during the winter months.

The abundance of birdlife in broadleaved woodland reflects the wealth of insects and other tiny creatures that like to live in woods. Beetles, spiders, moths, snails, centipedes and millipedes and many more live among the fallen leaves, under bark, in and around dead wood, and high up in the canopy. These invertebrates form an important part of the food chain and some also play an incredibly important role in the natural decomposition processes, helping return nutrients from dead wood and leaves to the soil.

Several of our native small mammals like to live in and around trees and woodlands because they are relatively undisturbed places to live with plenty of food and cover. Woodland inhabitants include Red Squirrels, Pine Marten, Foxes, Irish Stoat, Deer and Badgers. Red Squirrels are declining nationally due in large part to the spread of the introduced North American Grey Squirrel. The population of Red Squirrel in Galway is, however, not declining and therefore very important. Some bats, such as the Lesser Horseshoe Bat, Natterer's Bat and Brown Long-eared Bats, like to feed along the edge of woodlands and hedgerows.



Leisler's Bat/ Ialtóg Leisler (Austin Hopkirk)

Léiríonn flúirse an bheathra éan i gcoillearnach leathanduilleach an raidhse feithidí agus ainmhithe bídeacha eile a mhaireann i gcoillte. Maireann ciaróga, damháin alla, leamhain, seilidí, céadchosaigh, mílechosaigh agus go leor eile nach iad i measc na nduillí tite, faoi choirt, in adhmaid marbh agus thart timpeall air agus go hard sa cheannbhrat. Is cuid thábhachtach den slabhra bia iad na hinveirteabraigh sin agus bíonn ról fíorthábhachtach ag cuid díobh sna próisis nádúrtha dianscaoilte, mar a gcuidíonn siad le cothaitheigh ó adhmaid agus ó dhuillí marbha a chur ar ais san ithir.

Tá roinnt dár mamaigh bheaga dhúchasacha ar maith leo maireachtáil sna crainn agus sna coillearnacha agus thart timpeall orthu mar gur áiteanna suaimhneacha iad den chuid is mó, ina bhfuil neart bia agus foscaidh le fáil. I measc cónaitheoirí na coillearnai bíonn ioraí rua, cait chrainn, sionnaigh, easóga, fianna agus broic. Tá meath ag teacht ar líon na n-ioraí rua ar fud na tíre, agus is é leathadh an iora léith a tugadh isteach as Meiriceá Thuaidh an phríomhchúis leis. Ach níl pobal an iora rua ag meath i nGaillimh, áfach, agus tá sé an-tábhachtach dá bhrí sin. Is maith le roinnt ialtóg, amhail an chrú-ialtóg bheag, ialtóg Natterer agus an ialtóg fhadchluasach, a bheith á mbeathú féin ar cholbhaí na gcoillearnach agus na bhfálta seach.



Red Squirrel in Merlin Park Woods / Iora rua i gCoill Mhuirlinne (Colin Stanley)

ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF TREES AND WOODLAND

And finally, trees and woodlands obviously have a huge economic importance as timber is an invaluable natural resource with many uses in building, furniture making, craft industry as a fuel and in paper-making. This resource is one we need to utilise sustainably. If we harvest trees in woods or hedgerows, we need to ensure conditions are suitable to natural tree regeneration or we need to replant. Landowners are increasingly realising the value of hedgerow trees for fuel but there is little evidence to date of appropriate management to ensure a supply of timber from hedgerow trees in the future.

Of course trees and woodlands have many other economic benefits that are more difficult to quantify including benefits for tourism, landscapes, environment, biodiversity, health and well-being.



Leafy road in east Galway / Bóthar faoi dhuilliúr in oirthear na Gaillimhe (Michael Burke)

TAIRBHE EACNAMAÍOCHTA NA GCRANN AGUS NA COILLEARNAÍ

Agus ar deireadh, tá an-tábhacht eacnamaíochta ag baint le crainn, ar ndóigh, mar gur acmhainn nádúrtha fhíorluachmhar atá san adhmaid, a mbaintear go leor úsáide as sa tógáil, i ndéantús troscán, sa cheardaíocht, mar bhreosla agus i ndéantús páipéar. Is acmhainn í sin a chaithimid a úsáid ar bhealach inbhuanaithe. Má bhainimid crainn i gcoillte nó i bhfálta sceach, ní mór dúinn a chinntiú go bhfuil na cúinsí oiriúnach d'athghiniúint nádúrtha crann nó go bhfuil athchur riachtanach. De réir a chéile tá úinéirí talún ag tuiscint an tairbhe a bhaineann le crainn fháil mar bhreosla, ach is beag an fhianaise atá ann go dtí seo go bhfuil bainistiú cuí á dhéanamh lena chinntiú go mbeidh soláthar adhmaid ó chrainn fháil amach anseo.

Ar ndoigh, tá buntáistí eile eacnamaíochta ag baint le crainn agus le coillearnacha atá deacair a thomhas, tairbhe don turasóireacht, do thírdhreacha, don chomhshaol, don bhithéagsúlacht, don tsláinte agus don fholláine ina measc.



Bugle / Glasair choille



Trees and woods in the Slieve Aughty Mountains
Crainn agus coillte ar Shliabh Eachtaí

TREES IN THE PAST

HISTORY OF WOODLAND IN GALWAY

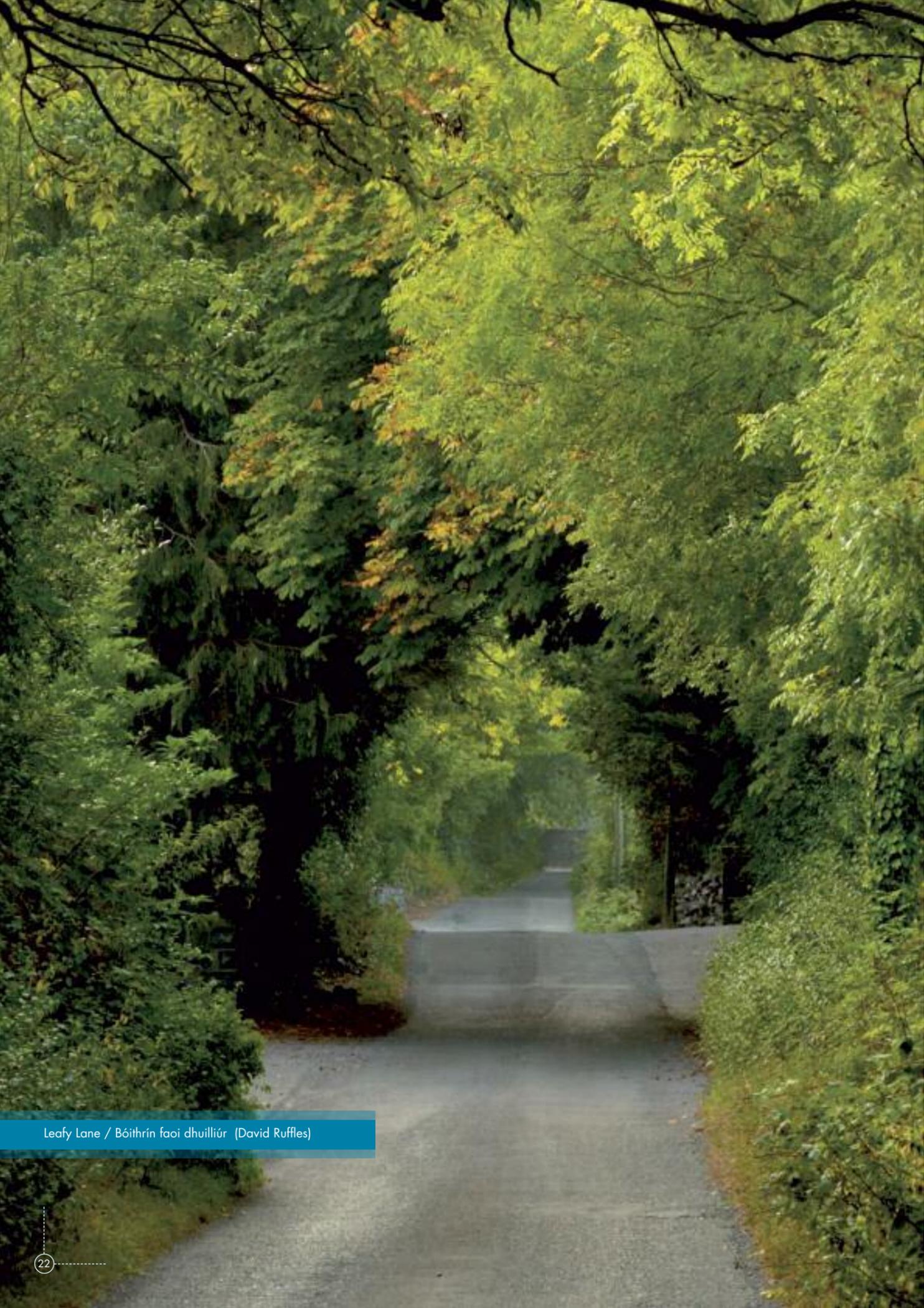
Soon after the end of the last ice age, about 10,000 years ago, Ireland was covered from coast to coast by forest. These primeval woodlands developed over thousands of years and were composed of a mix of trees including Oak, Elm, Ash, Scots Pine, Birch, Hazel, Holly and even Yew. Forest cover started to decline about 6000 years ago after the arrival of the first farmers who cleared the woods to create pastures and cultivate the land. The rate of woodland clearance increased in the late 16th and early 17th centuries, as timber was required for iron-working, glass-working and cooperage industries, and for shipbuilding. Increased pressure for agricultural land and fuel due to increased population size also resulted in woodland decline. The demise of Irish woodland cover continued until recent centuries when woodland cover fell below 2% by the end of the 1800s.

From the mid-18th century onwards, many large landowners, especially those on demesnes and estates, were encouraged to improve their lands by planting trees. Much of this planting consisted of broadleaves, especially oak, however, later in the century more and more conifers were planted.

Most of County Galway was covered by woodland prior to the arrival of farming; even the wilds of Conamara and the Aran Islands. The long and rich history of human activity in Galway led to a steady decline in tree cover but a few important areas of old native woodland remain today, such as at Derrycrag near Woodford, Seanadh Mhóinín, near An Spidéal in Conamara and Gortacarnaun near Gort. The decline in woodland cover led to the expansion of blanket bog in areas with acidic bedrock such as Conamara and the Slieve Aughty Mountains. In areas with thinner soils on limestone, such as the Aran Islands and parts of south Galway, woodland clearance led to soil erosion and the exposure of the underlying limestone bedrock.



Walkers in Coole Park
Siúlóirí i bPáirc na Cúile



Leafy Lane / Bóithrín faoi dhuilliúr (David Ruffles)



Seanadh Mhóinín Woods / Coill Sheanadh Mhóinín

CRAINN SAN AM ATÁ CAITE

STAIR NA COILLEARNAÍ I NGAILLIMH

Go luath tar éis dheireadh na hoighearaoise deireanaí, tuairim is 10,000 bliain ó shin, bhí Éire faoi chumhdach foraoise ó chósta go cósta. D'fhorbair na coillearnacha cianaosta sin thar na mílte bliain agus bhí siad comhdhéanta de mheascán crann, an dair, an leamhán, an fhuinseog, an péine Albanach, an bheith, an coll, an cuileann agus fiú an t-iúr ina measc. Thosaigh an cumhdach foraoise ag meath tuairim is 6000 bliain ó shin, tar éis theacht na céad fheirmeoirí, a leag na coillte chun féarach a chruthú agus an talamh a shaothrú. Tháinig borradh faoi leagan na gcoillte i ndeireadh an 16ú haois agus i dtús an 17ú haois, mar go raibh adhmaid ag teastáil le haghaidh thionscail an iarainn, na gloine, na cúipéireachta, agus na longthógála. Chomh maith leis sin tháinig meath ar na coillearnacha nuair a tháinig éileamh níos mó ar thalamh talmhaíochta agus ar bhreosla mar thoradh ar mhéadú sa daonra. Lean an meath sa chumhdach coillearnaí go dtí na céadta deireanacha nuair a thit an cumhdach coillearnaí faoi 2% faoi dheireadh na 1800idí.

Ó lár an 18ú haois ar aghaidh, spreagadh úinéirí móra talaimh, go háirithe iad sin ar dhiméinte agus ar eastáit, chun a dtailte a fheabhsú trí chrainn a chur. Is crainn leathanduilleacha a bhí i gceist den chuid is mó sa chur sin, go háirithe crainn darach, ach níos deireanaí sa chéad cuireadh tuilleadh crann buaircíneach de réir a chéile.

Bhí an chuid ba mhó de Chontae na Gaillimhe faoi chumhdach coillearnaí sular tosaíodh ar an bhfeirmeoireacht; fiú fásach Chonamara agus Oileáin Árann. Tháinig meath seasta i gcumhdach na gcrann le linn stair fhada agus shuibhir na gníomhaíochta daonna i nGaillimh, ach tá corrcheantar tábhachtach den tseanchoillearnach dhúchasach fós inniu ann, mar shampla i nDoire Chraige gar don Ghráig, i Seanadh Mhóinín gar don Spidéal i gConamara agus i nGort an Charnáin gar don Ghort. Bhí leathadh bratphortaigh i gceantair ina bhfuil buncharraig aigéadach, leithidí Chonamara agus Shliabh Eachtaí, ina thoradh ar an meath sa chumhdach coillearnaí. I gceantair ina bhfuil ithir éadomhain ar aolchloch, mar atá in Oileáin Árann agus i gcuid d'oidheisceart na Gaillimhe, creimeadh an ithir agus nochtadh an bhuncharraig aolchloiche faoi de bharr leagan na coillearnaí.



DUG-OUT CANOES

An ancient canoe was discovered in 2002 on a beach near Bearna by a local man (Brian Ó Carra) and his son. It is conserved in an underwater display in the Galway Atlantiquaria in Salthill. The vessel, carved out of pine, is one of 350 dug-out canoes found in the country to date. The 'Lurgan Logboat' found in Addergoole Bog near Milltown in north Galway is displayed in the National Museum. At over 15 m long and over 1 m wide it was a huge craft and is currently the oldest intact logboat ever found in Western Europe (radiocarbon dated to 2200 BC). This logboat must have been carved out of a giant oak tree, the like of which we no longer have today.

TREE LORE

Since earliest times, trees played a central role in people's lives in Ireland as reflected in our early alphabet, spiritual beliefs, legal system and folklore. Trees were highly valued by our ancestors because of their huge importance as a basic commodity used for building, fuel and as a food source. Niall Mac Coitir's beautiful book 'Irish Trees: Myths, Legends and Folklore' describes in great detail this vast and fascinating legacy.

Under the system of Brehon Law in ancient Ireland, trees were classified into various categories, with a series of laws governing their use and fines for damaging or cutting trees without the permission of the landowner. 'Nobles' of the woods were considered to have the highest value. These included: Oak (acorns and dignity), Hazel (nuts and rods), Holly, Yew (noble artefacts), Ash, Pine (resin) and Apple (fruit and bark). 'Commoners' of the wood were thought to be of lesser value e.g. Hawthorn, Rowan and Alder. Many characters of the Ogham alphabet, an early medieval alphabet used for writing in Irish, were named after trees. For example, the word for the letter B was Beith (Birch), while C was Coll (Hazel).



BÁID SCAOBTHA

Fuair fear áitiúil (Brian Ó Carra) agus a mhac bád scaobtha ársa ar thrá gar do Bhearna sa bhliain 2002. Tá sé caomhnaithe faoi uisce agus ar taispeánt in Uisceadán Náisiúnta na hÉireann i mBóthar na Trá i nGaillimh. Tá an soitheach, atá snoite as péine, ar cheann de 350 bád scaobtha a fuarthas sa tír go dtí seo. Tá Bád Scaobtha na Lorgan, a fuarthas i bPortach Eadargúla gar do Bhaile an Mhuilinn i dtuaisceart na Gaillimhe, ar taispeánt san Ard-Mhúsaem. Agus é níos faide ná 15 m agus níos leithne ná 1 m, is soitheach ollmhór a bhí ann agus tá sé fós ar an mbád scaobtha slán is sine a fuarthas riamh in iarthar na hEorpa (radacarbóin-dátaithe go 2200 RCh). Ní foláir nó gur snoíodh as crann darach ollmhór an bád scaobtha sin, agus níl a leithéid de chrann inniu againn.

SEANCHAS NA GCRANN

Ó thosach aimsire, bhí ról lárnach ag crainn i saol na ndaoine in Éirinn, mar a léirítear inár n-aibítir luath, inár gcreidimh spioradálta, inár gcóras dlí agus inár seanchas. Bhí ardmheas ag ár sinsear ar chrainn mar gheall ar an tábhacht mhór a bhí acu mar bhunearra le húsáid sa tógáil, mar bhreosla agus mar fhoinsé bia. Déantar cur síos mion ar an oidhreacht leathan an-spéisiúil seo i leabhar álainn Néill Mhic Coitir 'Irish Trees: Myths, Legends and Folklore'.

Faoi chóras an Fhéineachais in Éirinn fadó, rangáíodh crainn i ranganna éagsúla, le sraith dlíthe ag rialú a n-úsáid agus fíneálacha ann as dochar a dhéanamh do chrainn nó iad a ghearradh gan chead an úinéara talún. Measadh go raibh an luach is airde ag 'uaisle' na gcoillte. Ina measc bhí: an dair (dearcáin agus dínit), an coll (cnónna agus slata), an cuileann, an t-iúr (déantáin uaisle), an fhuinseog, an péine (roisín) agus an t-úll (toradh agus coirt). Measadh go raibh luach níos ísle ag 'ísle' na coille, e.g. an sreach gheal, an crann caorthainn agus an fhearnóg. Ainmníodh roinnt mhaith de litreacha na haibítire oghaim, aibítir Ghaeilge na meánaoise luaithe, as crainn. Mar shampla, ba í an bheith an litir B agus an coll an litir C.



Hawthorn/ Sceach

Holy trees, rag trees and fairy trees are still found throughout the Galway countryside, and many more have slipped into legend. Fairy trees or 'lone trees' were thought to be where fairies live and/or led to the underworld. Either way, they were to be approached with caution! Fairy trees are usually isolated Hawthorn bushes but sometimes they are Oak, Ash or Crab Apple. There are many stories about people who deliberately or inadvertently damaged a fairy tree and subsequently came to harm as the fairies took their revenge!

Holy trees or rag trees are special trees that are considered to have spiritual properties. Rags, religious icons and items, and other paraphernalia are sometimes tied or hung on the tree by people to help resolve problems and/or cure illness. Sometimes the offering represents a wish or aspiration which will come to pass. In some cases coins are pressed into the bark of the tree. Holy trees are often associated with holy wells. There were also many folk customs and superstitions associated with trees, some of which were considered to have magical powers.

Hazel was considered by our ancestors to be the 'tree of knowledge'. It was a symbol of fertility, wisdom and knowledge. The Salmon of Knowledge, unwittingly tasted by Fionn mac Cumhaill, fed on hazelnuts which had dropped into the Well of Segais. Hazel has been used for centuries for water divining and still is today.

Hawthorn was a symbol of fertility and protection, and strongly associated with the fairies. It was regarded with a mixture of fear and respect, especially the 'fairy trees' or 'lone bushes'. Many people still think bringing hawthorn into the house will bring bad luck. Hawthorn is associated with the Ogham letter 'Uath', which means fear.

One of our few native conifers, Yew was also considered sacred and therefore it was very unlucky to cut a Yew tree down or to damage it. It was also thought to have magical power and druids made their wands and staffs from Yew.

Faightear fós crainn bheannaithe, crainn cheirteacha agus crainn sí ar fud na tuaithe i nGaillimh, agus tá go leor eile sna finscéalta. Ceapadh gur i gcrainn sí nó crainn scoite a mhair na síoga agus/nó a raibh an bealach go dtí na hamhais tríothu. Pé scéal é, bhíothis le teacht i ngiorracht dóibh go cúramach! Is iondúil gur toim scoite na sceiche gile a bhíonn sna crainn sí ach uaireanta is dair, fuinseog nó fia-úll a bhíonn iontu. Tá scéalta go leor ann faoi dhaoine a rinne dochar trí thimpiste nó d'aonturas do chrann sí agus a ndearnadh díobháil dóibh nuair a bhain na síoga díoltas amach!

Is crainn speisialta, a gceaptar fúthu go bhfuil tréithe spioradálta iontu, iad na crainn bheannaithe nó na crainn cheirteacha. Uaireanta ceanglaíonn nó crochann daoine ceirteacha, samhla agus nithe diaganta agus giúirléidí eile ar an gcrann chun deacrachtaí a réiteach nó tinneas a leigheas. Amanna léiríonn an tairiscint toil nó mian a thiocfaidh sa saol. I gcásanna áirithe brúitear boinn isteach i gcoirt an chrainn. Is minic a luaitear crainn bheannaithe le toibreacha beannaithe. Bhí go leor nósanna agus piseoga ag na daoine a bhí ceangailte le crainn, agus creideadh go raibh draíocht ag baint le cuid de na crainn.

Mheas ár sinsear gur 'crann feasa' a bhí sa choll. Ba shiombail na torthúlachta, na gaoise agus an fheasa a bhí ann. D'ith an 'Bradán Feasa', a bhlaís Fionn Mac Cumhaill de thaisme, collchnónna a thit i dTobar Seaghais. D'úsáidí an coll ar feadh na gcéadta le haghaidh collóireachta agus úsáidtear fós inniu é.

Ba shiombail na torthúlachta agus na cosanta a bhí sa sceach gheal, agus bhí baint mhór aige leis na síoga. Is idir eagla agus urraim an dearcadh a bhí ag daoine air, go háirithe ar na crainn sí nó na toim scoite. Tá go leor daoine a chreideann fós go leanfaidh an mí-ádh an sceach gheal a thabhairt isteach sa teach. Tá an sceach gheal bainteach leis an litir oghaim Uath, a chiallaíonn eagla.

Measadh gur bheannaithe an t-iúr, ceann dár mbeagán crann buaircíneach dúchasach, agus dá bhrí sin leanadh an mí-ádh dá ngearrtaí an crann nó dá ndéantaí damáiste dó. Ceapadh, freisin, go raibh cumhacht draíochtúil aige agus is as an iúr a dhéanadh draoithe a slata agus a lorgaí.



Rag tree in Clonfert
Crann ceirteacha i gCluain Fearta





Yew / An tIúr

A Blackthorn stick was thought to provide protection against harm and was thought to be a good thing to carry at night. It was also thought by many to be an unlucky tree. In Maigh Cuilinn, it was customary to drink sloe wine at Halloween. In Ireland, Holly was classified as a 'crann uasal' a 'gentle' or 'noble' tree. It was a symbol of strength, magical power and protection.

There are many stories about trees in folklore from Galway. St. Colman mac Duach is said to have been born under the sacred Ash at the well in Kiltartan, Gort in AD 810 (known as St. Colman's well). This tree apparently grew from a stake or staff, which was driven into the ground and miraculously began to grow. St. Colman mac Duach founded the monastery at Kilmacduagh near Gort. Apparently the saint had an extraordinary tree there, Cuaille Mhic Duach or Mac Duach's Stake, which had the reputation for saving people from an untimely death.

There is a macabre story of an ancient Hawthorn growing along the road between Clifden and Cashel, which marks a spot where lone travellers were supposedly murdered by the proprietor of an isolated inn! It is thought locally that the tree is haunted as an old man has been seen sitting there despite the fact that there are no inhabited houses nearby. Bodies of victims were said to have been dumped in a nearby lake. There are a number of Holly trees growing between the 'haunted tree' and the lake and these are believed to be the reincarnated bodies of the murder victims!



Blackthorn / An Draighean

Síleadh gur thug bata draighin cosaint in aghaidh dochair agus gur mhaith an ní a bhí ann le hiompar san oíche. Cheap go leor daoine, freisin, gur chrann mí-ámharach a bhí ann. I Maigh Cuilinn, bhí sé de nós ag daoine fíon airne a ól faoi Shamhain. In Éirinn rangaíodh an cuileann mar chrann uasal. Ba chomhartha nirt, cumhachta draíochta agus cosanta a bhí ann.

Ta go leor scéalta faoi chrainn i mbéaloides na Gaillimhe. Deirtear gur rugadh Naomh Colmán Mac Duach faoin fhuinseog bheannaithe gar don tobar i gCill Tartan sa Ghort sa bhliain AD 810 (a aithnítear mar thobar Cholmáin). Is cosúil gur fhás an crann seo as cuaille nó bachall a sádh sa talamh agus a thosaigh ag fás go míorúilteach. Bhunaigh Naomh Colmán Mac Duach an mhainistir i gCill Mhic Dhuach gar don Ghort. Is cosúil go raibh crann neamhghnách ag an naomh ansin, Cuaille Mhic Dhuach, a raibh an cháil air gur shábháil sé daoine ó bhás anabái.

Tá scéal adhfhuafar ann faoi dhraighean ársa ag fás ar an mbóthar idir An Clochán agus An Caiseal, agus a léiríonn an áit ar dhúnmharaigh úinéir tí ósta iargúlta daoine a bhí ag taisteal ina n-aonair, más fíor. Ceaptar go háitiúil go bhfuil taibhse faoin gcrann mar go bhfacthas seanfhear ina shuí ann, cé nach bhfuil aon chónaí sna tithe máguaird. Deirtear gur caitheadh coirp na n-íobartach i loch gar don láthair. Tá roinnt crann cuilinn ag fás idir an 'crann mallaithe' agus an loch agus creidtear gurb iad sin coirp athionchollaithe na n-íobartach dúnmharaithe.





Majestic beech tree in Runnymede / Crann Beiche mórga i Runnymede (Michael Burke)

A large Ash in "The Lawn" at Eyrecourt Castle had a holy well in its bough. The well was reputed to cure warts! The tree had fourteen large roots that were regarded as representing Stations of the Cross by pilgrims. Sadly the tree no longer stands. Seven groves of beech trees were planted in Eyrecourt on the eastern crest of Redmount Hill in honour of the seven daughters of John and Eleanor Eyre. The trees form what became known locally as 'The Seven Sisters'.

Trees were also important as meeting points and as landscape features in the past. The great Ash tree at Duniry, Loughrea, is said to have housed a hedge school and been an important site for gatherings in times past.



Bhí tobar beannaithe i gcrabhb fuinseoige móire ar an bhfaiche i gCaisleán Dhún an Uchta. Bhí an cháil ar an tobar gur leigheas sé faithní! Bhí ceithre fhréamh déag mhóra ar an gcrann agus ba é dearcadh na n-oilithreach gur léirigh siad Turas na Croise. Faraor, níl an crann ina sheasamh níos mó. Cuireadh seacht ndoire feá i nDún an Uchta ar cholbha thoir Chnoc Redmount in onóir seachtar iníonacha John agus Eleanor Eyre. Déanann na crainn an rud a dtugtar 'An Seachtar Iníonacha' go háitiúil orthu.

Bhí crainn tábhachtach mar áiteanna cruinnithe agus mar ghnéithe tírdhreacha san am atá caite. Deirtear gur tugadh dídean do scoil scairte faoin bhfuinseog mhór i nDún Doighre agus gur láthair thábhachtach cruinnithe a bhíodh ann san am atá caite.



GREAT GALWEGIAN WOODS AND TREES



Sessile Oak woodland with Holly understory and heathy ground layer / Coillearnach Darach Gaelaí le sraith mheánach Cuilinn agus fódchiseal móinteach.



Alder-Willow wet woodland / Coillearnach fhliuch Fearnóige-Saifí

Woodland cover in Ireland is very low (c. 9%) when compared with the rest of Europe. Much of this is made up of commercial plantations of exotic conifers and the cover of native woodland is only 1.9%.

County Galway, however, has the second highest cover of native woodland in Ireland at 10,780ha (www.npws.ie), most of which is in the east of the county, in and around the Slieve Aughty Mountains. Several native woodlands in County Galway are of high nature conservation value and as such have been designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and/or Nature Reserves (Appendix 2).

There are several different types of native woodland in Galway and where they are found depends largely on the type of soils, whether they are acidic (low pH), neutral or limey (high pH), wet or dry, heavy or free draining. In areas with acidic bedrock, for example, in Conamara (e.g. Derryclare Nature Reserve) or on Slieve Aughty Mountains (e.g. Derrycrag Nature Reserve) in east Galway, Sessile Oak woodland occurs with Holly in the understory (i.e. the shrub layer below the woodland canopy) and a heathy ground layer with Bilberry. In low-lying areas in the east of the county, on limey soils and deep loams, Ash and Pedunculate Oak woodland with a Hazel understory can be found (e.g. Garryland Nature Reserve). Scrubby Birch woods can be found on cut-over and dried out bogs. Wet woodland composed of Alder and/or Willow occurs around lakes and along rivers. Hazel scrub and woodland occur on thin calcareous soils and limestone pavement in south Galway.

COILLTE AGUS CRAINN BHREÁTHA NA GAILLIMHE

Tá an cumhdach coillearnaí in Éirinn an-tearc (c. 9%), nuair a chuirtear i gcomparáid leis an gcuid eile den Eoraip é. Is fáschoillte tráchtála de chrainn bhuaircíneacha andúchasacha atá sa chuid is mó de sin agus níl ach 1.9% de chumhdach coillearnaí dúchasaí ann.

Tá an dara cumhdach is forleithne de choillearnach dhúchasach in Éirinn i gContae na Gaillimhe, áfach, is é sin 10,780 ha (www.npws.ie), agus an chuid is mó de in oirthear an chontae, ar Shliabh Eachtaí agus máguaird. Tá ardluach maidir le caomhantas dúlra ar roinnt coillearnach dúchasach i gContae na Gaillimhe agus dá réir tá siad ainmnithe mar Limistéir Chaomhantais Speisialta (LCSanna), Limistéir Oidhreachta Nádúrtha (LONanna) agus/nó Anaclanna Dúlra (Aguisín 2).

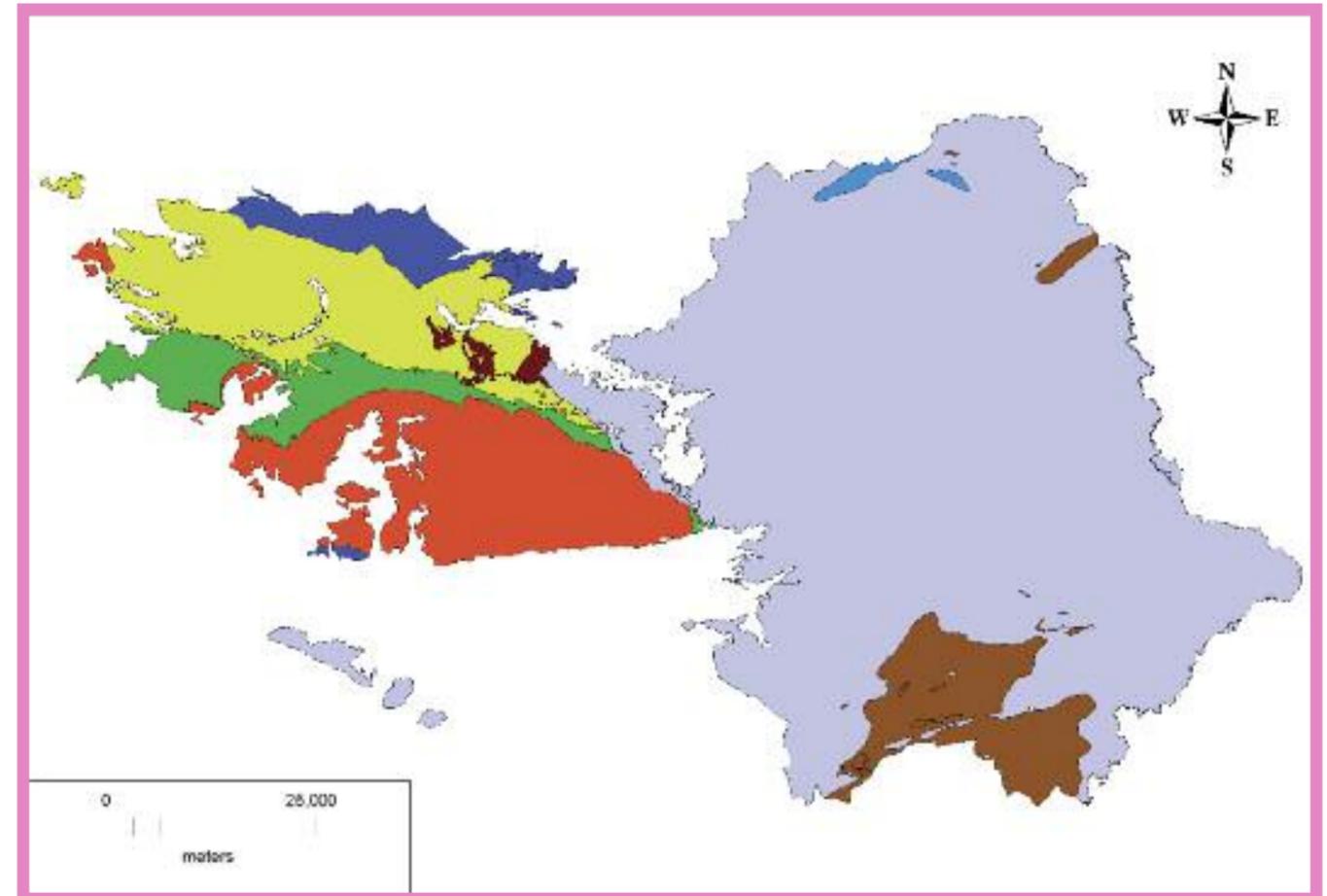
Tá roinnt cineálacha éagsúla coillearnach dúchasach i nGaillimh agus braitheann a suíomh go mór ar an gcineál ithreach ina bhfaightear iad, más aigéadach (pH íseal), neodrach nó aolmhar (pH ard), fliuch nó tirim, trom nó saorshilteach é sin. I gceantair le buncharraig aigéadach, i gConamara (e.g. Anaclann Dúlra Dhoire an Chláir), mar shampla, nó ar Shliabh Eachtaí (e.g. Anaclann Dúlra Dhoire Chraige) in oirthear na Gaillimhe, faightear coillearnach na darach gaelaí i gcuideachta cuilinn sa tsraith mheánach (i.e. an torsiú faoi cheannbhrat na coillearnaí) agus fódchiseal móinteach le fraochán. I gceantair ísle in oirthear an chontae, ar ithreacha aolmhara agus ar dhúrabháin dhoimhne, is féidir teacht ar choillearnach fuinseoige agus darach gallda le sraith mheánach den choll ann (e.g. Anaclann Dúlra Ghairéaláin). Is féidir teacht ar choillte scrobarnaí beithe ar phortaigh réitithe agus triomaithe. Faightear coillearnach fhliuch den fhearnóg agus/nó den tsaileach timpeall ar locha agus ar bhruacha aibhneacha. Faightear scrobarnach agus coillearnach coill ar ithreacha éadoimhne cailcreacha agus ar léibhinn aolchloiche i ndeisceart na Gaillimhe

TREES AND SOILS IN GALWAY

Most plants have a preference for the type of soil they like to grow in but many will tolerate a wide range of soil types. A few, however, are restricted to particular soils. The main features of soils that influence plant growth are whether they are acidic, neutral or limey; wet or dry; heavy (and possibly prone to waterlogging) or free-draining (and possibly prone to drought). Soil type is largely influenced by the rocks from which the soil is formed (bedrock geology or glacial deposits - sand and gravel), as well as climate. Limestone (a sedimentary rock laid down during the Carboniferous period) underlies most of east Galway and as a result much of the soils (apart from the raised bogs that dot the landscape in east and north Galway) are lime-rich. Igneous and metamorphic rocks (like granites, schists and quartzite) dominate in the west of the County, producing acidic soils and promoting the development of blanket bogs. Old Red Sandstone forms the Slieve Aughty Mountains in south Galway.

CRAINN AGUS ITHREACHA I NGAILLIMH

Taitníonn cineálacha ithreacha áirithe le formhór na bplandaí agus iad ag fás ach tá roinnt mhaith ann a chuireann suas le raon leathan de chineálacha ithreach. Tá roinnt bheag, áfach, a bhíonn teorannaithe d'ithreacha ar leith. Is iad seo a leanas príomhthréithe na hithreach a bhfuil tionchar acu ar fhás planda - an bhfuil sé aigéadach nó neodrach nó aolmhar; fliuch nó tirim; trom (agus b'fhéidir claonadh leis an leathbhá aige) nó saorshilteach (agus b'fhéidir claonadh leis an triomach aige). Tá tionchar nach beag ag an gcineál carraige as a ndéantar an ithir ar an gcineál ithreach (cineál buncharraige nó sil-leagan oighreach - gaineamh agus gairbhéal), chomh maith leis an aeráid. Is cloch aoil (carraig dhriodair a sil-leagadh le linn na tréimhse carbónmhaire) atá faoin gcuid is mó d'oirthear na Gaillimhe, agus dá bharr tá cuid mhaith de na hithreacha ar mhórán aoil (seachas na portaigh ardaithe a bhfuil an tírdhreach in oirthear agus i dtuaisceart na Gaillimhe breactha leo). Is iad na carraigeacha bruthacha agus meiteamorfacha (leithéidí eibhir, siostaí agus grianchloichítí) atá i réim in iarthar an chontae; táirgeann siad ithreacha aigéadacha agus cuidíonn le forbairt na mbratphortach. Is í an tSean-Ghaineamhchloch Rua a rinne Sliabh Eachtaí i ndeisceart na Gaillimhe.



Galway Bedrock / Buncharraig na Gaillimhe

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
|  | Sandstone/Shale (Silurian)
Gaineamhchloch/Sceall (Siolúrach) |  | Limestone (Carboniferous)
Cloch Aoil (Carbónmhar) |
|  | Sediments/Volcanics (Ordovician/Silurian)
Driodair/Bolcánaigh (Ordaiviseach) |  | Sandstone/Shale (Carboniferous)
Gaineamhchloch/Sceall (Carbónmhar) |
|  | Oughterard Granite (Ordovician)
Eibhear Uachtar Ard (Ordaiviseach) |  | Old Red Sandstone (Devonian)
Sean-Ghaineamhchloch Rua (Deavónach) |
|  | Connemara Metamorphics (Ordovician)
Meiteamorfáigh Chonamara (Ordaiviseach) |  | Galway Granite (Devonian)
Eibhear na Gaillimhe (Deavónach) |
|  | Connemara Quartzites, Schists & Marble (Dalradian)
Grianchloichítí, Siostaí & Marmar (Dálriadach) | | |

Hedgerows make up somewhat for the lack of woodland cover in Ireland by providing a refuge for some of our woodland flora and fauna. Hedges are invaluable for wildlife because they provide an abundant source of food, cover and shelter through all the seasons. Hedges criss-cross much of the Galway countryside, often in close association with old dry stone walls, and they facilitate the movement of wildlife through the landscape. Birds, bats, badgers, stoat, hedgehogs and butterflies all take advantage of hedgerows to move about. Walk along the sunny side of a hedgerow in summer and you'll often see butterflies flitting about as they go in search of food. County-wide hedgerow surveys were conducted in Galway in 2006-2008. These surveys identified the extent, composition and structure of the vast hedgerow network in Galway

(www.galway.ie/en/Services/Heritage/NaturalHeritage/Hedgerows/Hedgerow).

In Galway we are lucky to have several wonderful woodlands that are excellent for walking and exploring including the flagship sites, Coole Park, Portumna Forest Park and Rinvilla Park. There are, however, many other accessible woodlands and parks in the county, which are very pleasant places to walk and explore. These include a number of Coillte properties, Nature Reserves, and public parks.



Go pointe áirithe is cúiteamh iad na fála sreach in Éirinn ar an nganntanas sa bhrat coillearnaí, mar go dtugann siad tearmann do chuid dár flóra agus fána coillearnaí. Tá fála an-luachmhar don fhiadhúlra mar go gcuireann siad foinse fhlúirseach bia, cumhdaigh agus foscaidh ar fáil ar feadh na séasúr ar fad. Trasnaíonn fála cuid mhaith de thuath na Gaillimhe, go minic i ndlúthcheangal le seanbhallaí cloiche fuara, agus cuidíonn siad le gluaiseacht fiadhúlra tríd an tír. Baineann éin, ialtóga, broic, easóga, gráinneoga agus féileacáin tairbhe as fála sreach chun bogadh thart. Má shiúlann tú le taobh na gréine d'fhál sreach sa samhradh, feicfidh tú féileacáin go minic agus iad ag scinneadh thart ag cuardach bia. Cuireadh suirbhéanna ar fhála sreach ar bun ar fud Chontae na Gaillimhe in 2006-2008. Shainaithin na suirbhéanna sin fairsinge, comhdhéanamh agus struchtúr an líonra fála sreach i nGaillimh

(www.galway.ie/en/Services/Heritage/NaturalHeritage/Hedgerows).

Tá an t-ádh orainn i nGaillimh go bhfuil roinnt coillearnach iontach againn inar féidir tabhairt faoi shiúlóidí agus faoi thaiscéalaíocht, ina measc na suíomhanna eiseamláireacha - Páirc na Cúile, Páirc Foraoise Phort Omna agus Páirc Rinn Mhíl. Chomh maith leo sin, tá go leor coillearnach agus páirceanna sa chontae ar féidir teacht orthu go héasca, agus ar láithreacha breátha iad le tabhairt faoin tsiúlóid agus faoin taiscéalaíocht. San áireamh tá roinnt talaimh de chuid Coillte, anaclanna dúlra agus páirceanna poiblí.



Hazel scrub / Scrobarnach Coill



Long-tailed Tit (Colin Stanley) / Meantán Earrfhada

WHERE TO ENJOY WOODLANDS IN GALWAY

Derroura Mountainbike Trail, near Oughterard	Coillte property with mountain biking trail
Portumna Forest Park	Coillte property with walking and biking trails
Ard na Gaoithe, near Cong	Coillte property with walking trails
Monivea Woods, Monivea	Coillte property with walking trails
Clonbur Wood, Clonbur	Coillte property with walking trails
Cong Forest, Cong	Coillte property with walking trails
Newvillage Forest Recreation Area, Oughterard	Coillte property with walking trails
Mountbellew Forest Park	Coillte property with walking trails
Aghrane in Ballygar	Coillte property with walking trails
Lackavrea, near Maam Cross	Coillte property with walking trails
Castletaylor, Ardrahan	Coillte property with walking trails
Rinville Park, Oranmore	Galway County & City Council Park with walking trails
Garryland Nature Reserve, Gort	Nature Reserve with walking trails
Coole Park, Gort	Nature Reserve and Park with walking trails
Derrycrag, Woodford	Nature Reserve with walking trails
Pollnaknockaun, Woodford	Nature Reserve with walking trails
Rosturra, Woodford	Nature Reserve with walking trails; also millennium forest site

See www.coillteoutdoors.ie for location details and maps of walking trails in Galway. www.npws.ie has information on National Nature Reserves such as Garryland and Derrycrag. www.galway.ie provides details on public parks in the county such as Rinville Park.

GALWAY'S SIGNIFICANT AND CURIOUS TREES

Galway is home to lots of magnificent trees, many of which were recorded by the Tree Council in their national survey of 'champion' trees (www.treecouncil.ie), and the County Galway Significant Tree Survey (www.galway.ie/gis/gmaps).

The Significant Tree Survey was conducted in east Galway (Loughrea and Ballinasloe electoral areas) in 2004 to identify notable trees (in terms of size, age, unusual growth form, historical and folklore interest). Two hundred and eighty trees or groups of trees were recorded. Many of these trees are located in the remnants of old estates and demesnes. In many case these trees were planted as landscape trees in the immediate vicinity of the houses or in the pastures in front of the houses (described as 'aspect planting'). The main tree species used in aspect planting

NA HÁITEANNA LE SULT A BHAINTEAS COILLEARNACHA I NGAILLIMH

Conair Rothair Sléibhe Dhoire Abhra, gar d'Uachtar Ard	Talamh Choillte le conair rothaíochta sléibhe
Páirc Foraoise Phort Omna	Talamh Choillte le conairí siúlóide agus rothaíochta
Ard na Gaoithe, gar do Chonga	Talamh Choillte le conairí siúlóide
Coillte Mhuine Mheá	Talamh Choillte le conairí siúlóide
Coill na Fairche, An Fhairche	Talamh Choillte le conairí siúlóide
Coill Chonga, Conga	Talamh Choillte le conairí siúlóide
Áit Áineasa Fhoraois an Bhaile Nua, Uachtar Ard	Talamh Choillte le conairí siúlóide
Páirc Foraoise An Chreagáin	Talamh Choillte le conairí siúlóide
Achadh Raithin i mBéal Átha Ghártha	Talamh Choillte le conairí siúlóide
Leic Aimhréidh, gar don Teach Dóite	Talamh Choillte le conairí siúlóide
Caisleán an Táilliúraigh, Ard Raithin	Talamh Choillte le conairí siúlóide
Páirc Rinn Mhíl, Órán Mór	Páirc Chomhairle Chathair & Chontae na Gaillimhe le conairí siúlóide
Anaclann Dúlra Ghairealáin, An Gort	Anaclann Dúlra le conairí siúlóide
Páirc na Cúile, An Gort	Anaclann agus Páirc Dúlra le conairí siúlóide
Doire Chraige, An Ghráig	Anaclann Dúlra le conairí siúlóide
Poll na gCnocán, An Ghráig	Anaclann Dúlra le conairí siúlóide
Ros Dora, An Ghráig	Anaclann Dúlra le conairí siúlóide; láthair fhoraois na mílaoise, chomh maith

Féach www.coillteoutdoors.ie i gcomhair sonraí logánta agus mapaí na gconairí siúlóide i nGaillimh.

Tá eolas ag www.npws.ie ar Anaclanna Dúlra Náisiúnta, amhail Gairealán agus Doire Chraige. Tá sonraí na bpáirceanna poiblí sa chontae, amhail Páirc Rinn Mhíl, ar www.galway.ie

CRAINN SHUNTASACHA AGUS AITE NA GAILLIMHE

Tá go leor crann breá i nGaillimh, agus thairfead Comhairle Crann na hÉireann cuid mhaith díobh ina suirbhé náisiúnta ar 'scoth na gcrann' (www.treecouncil.ie), agus sa County Galway Significant Tree Survey (www.galway.ie/gis/gmaps).

Cuireadh an Significant Tree Survey ar siúl in oirthear na Gaillimhe (Toghcheantair Bhaile Locha Riach agus Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe) in 2004 chun crainn shuntasacha a aithint (ó thaobh aoise, méide, cuma neamhghnáiche fáis, staire agus seanchais de). Thairfeadh dhá chead agus ochtó crann nó grúpa crann. Tá go leor de na crainn sin lonnaithe in iarsmaí seaneastát agus diméinte. I gcás chuid mhaith de na crainn sin cuireadh iad mar chrainn tírdhreacha cóngarach do na tithe nó sna féaraigh os comhair na dtithe (a dtugtar 'cur dreacha' air). Ar na príomhspeicis a



include Beech, Oak, Horse Chestnut and Common Lime. Others include Spanish Chestnut, Cherry, Drooping Ash, and Holm Oak. Yew trees are also to be found planted close to these old big houses, often found in pairs planted each side of the building.

One of Galway's most famous trees is the 'Autograph Tree' in Coole Park, Gort. This beautiful Copper Beech (*Fagus sylvatica atropurpurea* group) grows in the walled garden of the Park (21 m height and 3.5 m girth). When Lady Gregory lived in Coole Park, her friends including W.B. Yeats and his brother Jack, George Bernard Shaw, John Masfield, Sean O'Casey and others signed their names on the trunk of this magnificent tree. (Please note: carving your initials into a tree trunk is not recommended as it can cause serious harm to a tree!). Yeats was inspired by the beauty of the seven woods in Coole Park and immortalised them in his poetry.

One of Ireland's greatest Beech trees, located in Gortnamona, Ballinasloe, is a staggering 26m high with a girth of 7.46m! The largest Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*) in terms of girth in Ireland and Britain grows in the grounds of Crumlin Park House, Ardnasodan, Ballyglunin (height 13m and girth 3.14m). Another exceptional specimen tree is a Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) growing in Clonbrock, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe. This tree has attained a height of 16m and has an amazing girth of 9.2m (only the third largest in the country!). For more stats on amazing trees in Galway see www.treecouncil.ie/heritagetrees or www.galway.ie/gis/gmaps.

úsáidtear i gcur dreacha, tá an fheá, an dair, an crann cnó capaill agus an teile choiteann. I measc na gcrann eile bíonn an castán Eorpach, an sílín, an fhuinseog speirthe agus an dair thoilm. Faightear crainn iúir curtha in aice leis na seantithe móra sin, agus iad go minic curtha i bpéirí gach aon taobh den fhoirgneamh.

Ar cheann de na crainn is cáiliúla i nGaillimh, tá an 'Crann Sínithe' i bPáirc na Cúile, An Gort. Tá an fheá rua álainn seo (*Fagus sylvatica*, grúpa *atropurpurea*) ag fás i ngarraí daingean na páirce (21 m ar airde agus 3.5 m timpeall). Nuair a bhí an Bhantiarna Gregory ina cónaí i bPáirc na Cúile, shínigh a cairde, W.B. Yeats agus a dheartháir Jack, George Bernard Shaw, John Masfield, Sean O'Casey agus daoine nach iad, a n-ainmneacha ar thamhan an chrainn iontaigh seo. (Tabhair faoi deara, le do thoil: ní mholtar d'inisealacha a ghreanadh i dtamhan crainn mar gur féidir leis dochar mór a dhéanamh don chrann!). Spreagadh Yeats le háille na seacht gcoill i bPáirc na Cúile agus bhunaigh sé iad ina chuid filíochta.

Tá ceann de na feánna is mó in Éirinn, lonnaithe i nGort na Móna, Béal Átha na Sluaighe, 26 m ar airde agus 7.46 m timpeall! Tá an fionncholl (*Sorbus aria*) is mó in Éirinn agus sa Bhreatain, maidir lena thimpeall, ag fás i dtailte Theach Pháirc Chromhghlinne, Ard na Sodán, Béal Átha Glúinín (airde 13 m agus 3.14 m timpeall). Crann taispeántais eisceachtúil eile is ea an castán Eorpach (*Castanea sativa*) atá ag fás i gCluain Broc, Áth Eascrach, Béal Átha na Sluaighe. Tá airde 16 m bainte amach ag an gcrann seo agus tá timpeall dochreidte de 9.2 m air (ar an tríú ceann is mó sa tír!). Chun tuilleadh toisí crann iontach i nGaillimh a fháil, féach www.treecouncil.ie/heritagetrees nó www.galway.ie/gis/gmaps.



Greenfinch / Glasán Darach (Tom Cuffe)



Ring of beech trees at Woodville, Kilchreest
Fáinne Crann Feá i mBaile na Coille, Cill Chríost



Juniper at Portumna / An tAiteal i bPort Omna

Juniper (*Juniperus communis*) is one of the few native conifers found in Ireland. It is usually found clinging to rocks in uplands or on limestone pavement. A colony of the rare upright form of Juniper can be seen growing along the shore of Lough Derg near Portumna.

Tá an t-aiteal (*Juniperus communis*) ar cheann den bheagán crann buaircíneach dúchasach a fhaightear in Éirinn. Is gnách go bhfaightear é ceangailte de charraigeacha ar thailte arda nó ar leaca aolchloiche. Tá coilíneacht den leagan tearc ceartseasmhach den aiteal le feiceáil ag fás ar feadh bhruach Loch Deirgeirt gar do Phort Omna.



Magnificent Beech Tree /
Crann feá ollásach

TREES IN GALWAY PLACENAMES

Many placenames in County Galway today reflect past associations with trees and woodlands. Trees or references to woodland often appear in names of townlands, parishes and towns. Portumna (Port omna), for example, is reputedly the 'landing place or bank of the Oak'. Kylemore in Conamara comes from Coill mhór (the big wood), and Moycullen (Maigh Cuilinn), Plain of Holly. The Irish for an Oak wood, Doire, appears in many townland names e.g. Derryclare, Derryrag, Derradda and Derrymore. There are still fine Oak woodlands at Derryclare in Conamara and Derryrag near Woodford! The Irish for a thorn bush or tree, Sceach, also appears in placenames (e.g. Skeaghareagan), as does Birch (Beith) e.g. Beagh.

CRAINN I LOGAINMNEACHA NA GAILLIMHE

Léiríonn go leor logainmneacha i gContae na Gaillimhe an ceangal a bhí le crainn agus le coillearnacha san am atá caite. Is minic a fhaightear ainmneacha crann nó tagairtí do choillearnacha in ainmneacha bailte fearainn, paróistí agus bailte. Deirtear go gciallaíonn Port Omna áit tuirlingthe nó bruach na daraí. Tá An Choill Mhór agus Maigh Cuilinn i gConamara. Tá an focal 'doire', a chiallaíonn coill darach, in ainmneacha go leor bailte fearainn, e.g. Doire Chláir, Doire Chraige, Doire Fhada agus Doire Mór. Tá coillearnacha breá darach fós i nDoire Chláir i gConamara agus i nDoire Chraige gar don Ghráig. Tá an focal sceach le fáil i logainmneacha chomh maith (e.g. Sceach Uí Riagáin) agus an bheith chomh maith, e.g. An Bheitheach.

OUR MAIN NATIVE TREES & SHRUBS



Alder leaves / Duillí Fearnóige

Alder *Alnus glutinosa*

Alder is a fast-growing tree generally found on damp soils along streams and around lake edges but it will grow in a wide range of conditions including heavy soils. It has strong and fibrous roots, which help stabilise riverbanks. Although Alder is not a conifer the female flowers produce green cone-like fruits which contain the seeds. These small, attractive fruits last through the winter. Another interesting feature of this tree is that the roots are able to convert atmospheric nitrogen (which is a gas), into a form that the plant can use. The tree therefore produces its own fertiliser and in doing so enriches the soil. Alder seeds last for a long time and are good for birds and red squirrels.

Apple, Crab *Malus sylvestris*

Crab Apple is a small tree often found growing in hedgerows and occasionally in old woodlands in Galway. The pale pinkish/ white blossoms are a beautiful sight in early summer. Crab apple thrives in fertile soils, preferably neutral to lime-rich. Crab apples have long been used to make jellies, jams and wine.

The Irish Seed Savers Association (ISSA), based in Scariff, Co. Clare, is an organisation dedicated to the preservation of traditional native varieties of fruit and vegetables including apple trees. The ISSA nursery offers a wide selection of apple trees for sale. www.irishseedsavers.ie



Crab apples / Fia-úlla

ÁR BPRÍOMHCHRAINN AGUS ÁR BPRÍOMHTHOIM DHÚCHASACHA

An Fhearnóg *Alnus glutinosa*

Is crann é an fhearnóg a fhasann go tapa agus a fhaightear de ghnáth ar ithreacha taise ar thaobh sruthán agus timpeall ar imill locha ach fásfaidh sé faoi raon leathan cúinsí, agus ithreacha troma ina measc. Tá fréamhacha láidre snáithíneacha air, rud a chuidíonn le bruacha abhann a dhainniú. Cé nach crann buaircíneach atá san fhearnóg, táirgeann na bláthanna bainneannacha torthaí uaine ar chuma cóin ina mbíonn na síolta. Maireann na torthaí beaga tarraingteacha seo ar feadh an gheimhridh. Gné eile shuimiúil den chrann seo is ea go bhfuil na fréamhacha ábalta nítrigin an atmaisféir (ar gás é) a thiontú i bhfoirm ar féidir leis an bplanda leas a bhaint as. Ar an gcaoi sin, táirgeann an crann a leasú féin agus de thoradh air sin saibhríonn sé an ithir. Maireann síolta na fearnóige ar feadh achair fhada agus is maith iad d'éin agus don iora rua.

An Crann Fia-úll *Malus sylvestris*

Is crann beag a fhaightear ag fás go minic i bhfálta sceach agus ó am go chéile i seanchoillearnacha i nGaillimh atá sa chrann fia-úll. Is álainn an radharc na bláthanna bána/bándearga i dtús an tsamhraidh. Bíonn rath ar an bhfia-úll in ithreacha torthúla, agus is fearr leis iad a bheith idir neodrach agus ar mhórán aoil. Is fada fia-úlla á n-úsáid chun glóthach, subh agus fion a dhéanamh.

Is eagraíocht an Irish Seed Savers Association (ISSA), bunaithe sa Scairbh, Contae an Chláir, atá tiomnaithe do chaomhnú na gcineálacha dúchasacha torthaí agus glasraí, crainn úll ina measc. Tá rogha leathan de chrann úll ar fáil le ceannach ó phlandlann an ISSA. www.irishseedsavers.ie

Crab apple in flower/ Crann fia-úll





Ash / Fuinseog

Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*

Ash is a common woodland and hedgerow tree in Galway, particularly in the east of the county. A large handsome tree, it can grow in a wide range of conditions with the exception of acidic or peaty soils. Ash prefers well-drained soils but can tolerate damp and heavy soils (though not in permanently waterlogged soils). It is a woodland tree but needs plenty of light to reach the canopy. Ash can grow in exposed sites and windswept coastal areas. Ash has been used for generations to produce hurleys because of its strength and flexibility, and good capacity for shock absorbency. It also produces great firewood. Ash is traditionally associated with healing and is frequently found growing near holy wells, such as St. Colman's well in Kiltartan, Ardrahan.

Ash dieback disease is a serious disease caused by a fungal pathogen (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*). The disease has spread rapidly across much of Europe and has been introduced to Ireland though imported Ash plants. It can affect ash trees of any ages and in any setting. For more information see http://www.teagasc.ie/forestry/docs/advice/teagasc_chalara_leaflet_may13.pdf

Aspen *Populus tremula*

Aspen is an uncommon native tree mainly found growing in wet areas and around lake edges and along rivers. Aspen prefers rich damp soils (not too acidic or limey) but it can tolerate poor soils. Aspen is a large, attractive fast-growing tree which puts on a beautiful autumn display when the leaves turn bright yellow. The leaves make a distinctive sound as they 'tremble' in the wind, hence its scientific name. They usually stay on the tree for some time before eventually falling.



An Fhuinseog *Fraxinus excelsior*

Is crann coitianta i gcoillearnacha agus i bhfálta sceach i nGaillimh an fhuinseog, go háirithe in oirthear an chontae. Is crann mór maisiúil atá ann, agus is féidir leis fás faoi raon leathan cúinsí, seachas in ithir aigéadach nó móinteach. Is fearr leis an bhfuinseog ithreacha atá draenáilte go maith ach is féidir leis cur suas le hithreacha taise agus troma (ach amháin ithreacha a bhíonn síorfhluch). Is crann coillearnaí atá ann ach teastaíonn neart solais uaidh chun an ceannbhrat a shroichint. Is féidir leis an bhfuinseog fás i láithreacha nochta agus i gceantair rite cois cósta. Tá an fhuinseog á húsáid ar feadh na gcianta chun camáin a dhéanamh mar gheall ar a neart agus a solúbthacht agus ar an gcumas maith atá aige turraing a mhaolú. Déanann sé broсна an-mhath freisin. Tá an fhuinseog luaite sa seanchas le leigheas agus faightear ag fás go minic é gar do thuibreacha beannaithe, leithéid Thobar Naomh Colmáin i gCill Tartan, Ard Raithin.

Is galar tromchúiseach é galar críonadh siar na fuinseoige ar pataigin fhungasach (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) is cúis leis. Tá an galar tar éis scaipeadh go tapa trasna chuid mhór den Eoraip agus is trí phlandaí fuinseoige impórtáilte a tugadh isteach go hÉirinn é. Is féidir leis cur isteach ar chrainn fhuinseoige d'aois ar bith agus in aon suíomh. Chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil, féach http://www.teagasc.ie/forestry/docs/advice/teagasc_chalara_leaflet_may13.pdf

An Crann Creathach *Populus tremula*

Is crann dúchasach neamhchoitianta é an crann creathach, a fhaightear ag fás go príomha i gceantair fhliucha agus timpeall ar imill lochanna agus ar bhruacha aibhneacha. Is fearr leis an gcrann creathach ithreacha saibhre taise (gan a bheith ró-aigéadach ná ró-aolmhar) ach is féidir leis cur suas le hithreacha bochta. Is crann mór tarraingteach an crann creathach a fhásann go tapa agus a chuireann taispeántas álainn ar siúl san fhómhar nuair a iompaíonn na duillí go dath geal buí. Déanann na duillí fuaim shuaitheiseach agus iad ag creathadh sa ghaoth, agus is é sin is bun leis an ainm Laidine atá air. Is iondúil go bhfanann siad ar an gcrann ar feadh tamaill sula dtiteann siad ar deireadh.



Aspen leaves /
Duillí an Chrainn Chreathaigh





Downy Birch / An Bheith Chlúmhach

Birch, Downy *Betula pubescens*

There are two types of birch tree native to Ireland. Downy Birch is the more common of the two, especially in Galway. Downy Birch is a graceful, small tree with fine branches and small leaves which turn yellow in autumn. It is often found growing in damp conditions on dried out bogs, around lake edges and the edges of fens. Downy Birch prefers acid to neutral soils and will grow on poor soils on exposed sites and at high elevations. Birch is widely planted in gardens and parks as it is a very attractive, small tree. A pioneer species, Birch will enrich the ground on a poor site. Like Alder, Birch seeds are very popular with birds, especially Siskin and Red Poll.

Blackthorn/ sloe *Prunus spinosa*

A shrub with long, sharp thorns often found in hedgerows, Blackthorn stands out in early spring when masses of pretty white flowers appear before the leaves (unlike Hawthorn, the flowers of which appear after the leaves are out). Blackthorn grows in a wide variety of soils with the exception of very wet conditions. It can tolerate exposed and coastal sites. Blackthorn will spread if not regularly trimmed or grazed back. The berries or sloes look like small plums but are very sour to eat. They have been traditionally used to flavour poteen and gin. The thorny bush provides good nesting cover for birds while the berries are a valued source of food for birds and small mammals. Shillelaghs or walking sticks were often made from Blackthorn and sometimes used as weapons when required. They are now produced solely for the tourist trade.



An Bheith Chlúmhach *Betula pubescens*

Tá dhá chineál beithe dúchasaí in Éirinn. Is í an bheith chlúmhach an ceann is coitianta, go háirithe i nGaillimh. Is crann beag dea-chumtha le craobhacha fineálta agus duillí beaga a iompaíonn go dath buí san fhómhar atá sa bheith chlúmhach. Faightear go minic é ag fás faoi chúinsí taise i bportaigh triomaithe, timpeall ar imill lochanna agus ar imill eanach. Is fearr leis an mbeith chlúmhach ithreacha aigéadacha ná ithreacha neodrachacha agus fásfaidh sé ar ithreacha bochta ar shuíomhanna gan chosaint agus ar airdí móra. Déantar an bheith a chur go forleathan i ngairdíní agus i bpáirceanna mar gur crann beag an-tarraingteach atá ann. Is speiceas téisclime atá sa bheith agus saibhríonn sé an talamh ar shuíomh bocht. Ach an oiread leis an bhfearnóg, bíonn an-tóir ag éin ar shíolta na beithe, go háirithe an siscín agus an deargéadan.

An Draighean *Prunus spinosa*

Is tom le dealga fada, géara, a fhaightear go minic i bhfálta sceach, atá sa draighean agus bíonn sé feiceálach i dtús an earraigh nuair a thagann raidhse bláthanna deasa bána air sula dtagann na duillí (murab ionann agus an sceach gheal, a dtagann na bláthanna air tar éis na nduillí). Fásann an draighean in ithreacha éagsúla seachas ithreacha a bhíonn an-fhliuch. Is féidir leis cur suas le suíomhanna rite agus suíomhanna cois cósta. Scaipeann an draighean mura mbearttar go rialta é nó mura ndéantar é a innilt. Tá cuma plumaí beaga ar na caora nó na hairní ach tá siad an-searbh le hithe. Úsáidtear go traidisiúnta iad le blas a chur ar phoitín agus ar jin. Cuireann an tom deilgneach cumhdach maith neadaithe ar fáil d'éin agus is foinse mhaith bia d'éin agus do mhamaigh bheaga iad na caora. Dhéantaí saileanna éille nó maidí siúil as an draighean go minic agus uaireanta d'úsáidti iad mar airm nuair ba ghá. Ní dhéantar anois iad ach amháin mar earra do thurasóirí.



Blackthorn sloes / Airní Draighin



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 Dúitseach 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 fíorálainn 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 chuireann 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*

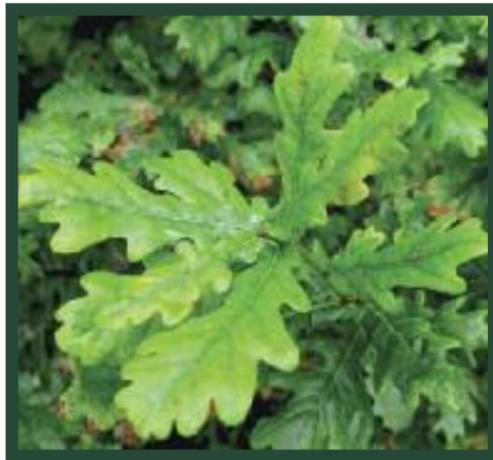
Pedunculate oak (Dair ghallda) *Quercus robur*

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 orthu mar 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 chuirtear 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*

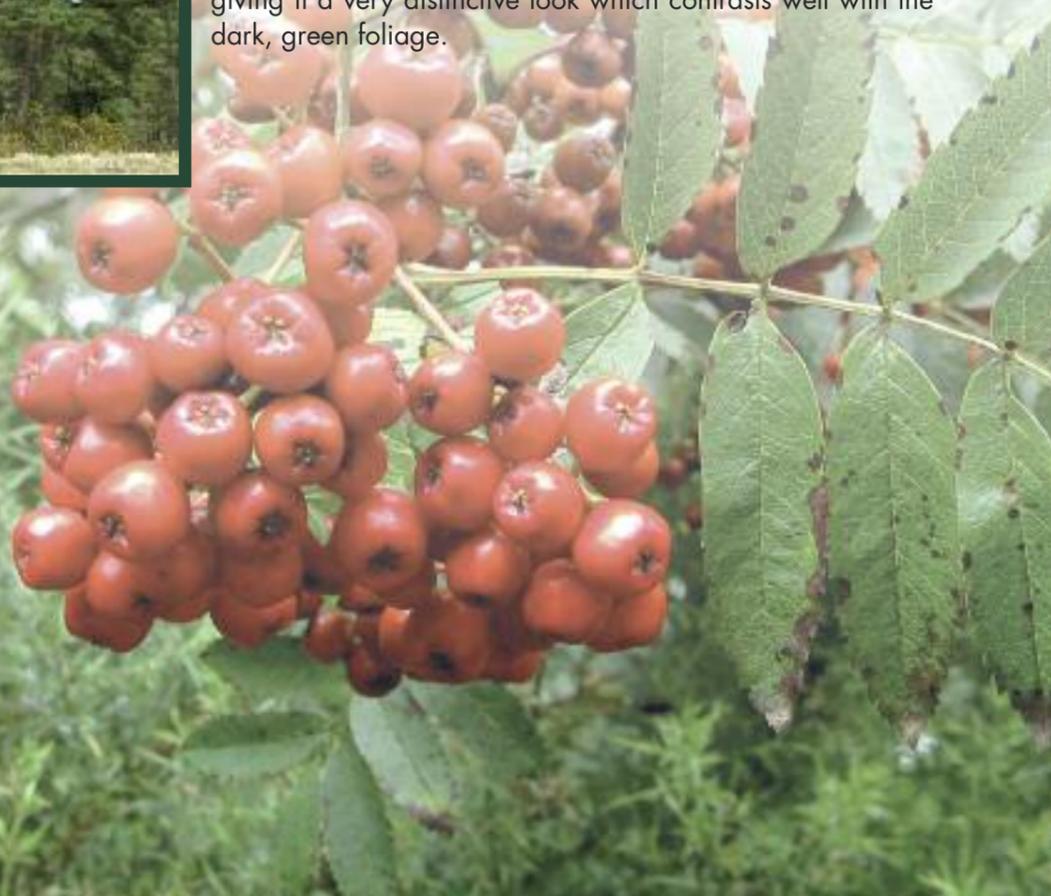
Rowan or mountain ash is a highly attractive, small tree. It is widely planted in gardens and parks. Rowan produces clusters of beautiful creamy-white flowers in spring and orange-red berries in late summer. The leaves turn various shades of yellow, orange and bright red in autumn. It generally prefers 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'író 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 fáлта sceach 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).





Yew with berries / An tIúr le caora

Yew *Taxus baccata*

Yew is one of our very few native conifers or evergreens. Not often seen in the wild, it is most commonly seen growing in old church yards where the variety of the Irish Yew, known as *Taxus baccata* 'fastigata', is widely planted due to its upright growth form. There are a few old Yew woodlands remaining in Ireland including a small stand in Garryland (near Coole Park).

Some Yew trees in Ireland are estimated to be over 1000 years old and in Britain there are specimens over 5000 years old! In the wild, yew generally grows in woodland on limestone pavement but Yew woodland is a very rare habitat in Ireland these days and considered of special conservation significance. Yew prefers well-drained lime-rich soils and can tolerate deep shade. The leaves of Yew are poisonous to most livestock and the seeds are also toxic so Yew should not be planted where children and animals may be at risk. It is, however, good for wildlife as birds can eat the fruit and birds roost and nest in the trees. Yew forms a dense, solid hedge and is ideal for topiary although it is slow-growing. Yew wood is highly prized by woodworkers due to its excellent timber.

Coillte Woodland Restoration LIFE Projects

Coillte have conducted two major woodland restoration projects in Galway with the assistance of European Union LIFE funding. Both projects involve the planting of Yew in areas where it would formerly have been abundant. The project sites are in Clonbur Wood near Cong and Castletaylor near Ardrahan, and both are accessible to the public. These exciting projects will result in the expansion of a rare woodland type in Ireland, Yew woodland. Fossil pollen records indicate that Yew woodland was once much more common in Ireland, particularly in the west.

www.coillte.ie/LIFE/woodlandrestoration/

An tIúr *Taxus baccata*

Tá an t-Iúr ar cheann dár mbeagán crann buaircíneach no crann síorghlas dúchasach. Ní minic a fheictear ag fás san fhiántas é, ach i seanchealla is coitianta a fheictear é, áit a gcuirtear go forleathan an cineál iúir Éireannaigh a dtugtar *Taxus baccata* 'fastigata' air, de bharr cuma ingearach a bheith air. Tá roinnt seanchoillearnach iúir fós in Éirinn, ina measc clampa beag i nGaialéalán (gar do Pháirc na Cúile).

Meastar roinnt crann iúir in Éirinn a bheith os cionn 1000 bliain d'aois agus i Sasana tá eiseamail atá os cionn 5000 bliain d'aois! San fhásach, is gnách go bhfásann an t-Iúr ar leaca aolchloiche i gcoillearnach, ach is gnáthóg an-tearc in Éirinn an choillearnach iúir na laethanta seo agus meastar suntas caomhantais speisialta a bheith ag baint leis. Is fearr leis an iúr ithreacha atá draenáilte go maith agus ar mórán aoil agus is féidir leis cur suas le scáth dorcha. Tá duillí an iúir nimhiúil d'fhormhór an bheostoic agus tá na síolta nimhiúil freisin, mar sin níor cheart an t-Iúr a chur in áit a mbeidh baol ann do pháistí agus d'ainmhithe. Tá tairbhe ann, áfach, don fhiadhúlra mar gur féidir le héin an toradh a ithe agus go dtéann siad ar fara agus ag neadú sna crainn. Déanann an t-Iúr fál dlúth, tiubh agus tá sé an-oiriúnach don tordhearadh, cé go bhfásann sé go mall. Tá an-tóir ag saoir adhmaid ar an iúir mar gheall ar fheabhas a adhmaid.

Tionscadail LIFE um Athbhunaithe Coillearnach de chuid Coillte

Tá dhá mhórhionscadal athbhunaithe coillearnaí curtha ar bun ag Coillte i nGaillimh le cúnamh ó chistiúchán LIFE an Aontais Eorpaigh. Tá cur an iúir, i limistéir ina mbíodh sé fairsing san am atá caite, i gceist leis an dá thionscadal. Is i gCoill na Fairche, gar do Chonga agus i gCaisleán an Táilliúraigh, gar d'Ard Raithin atá an dá shuíomh, agus is féidir leis an bpobal teacht orthu araon. Is é an toradh a bheidh ar na tionscadail iontacha sin go mbeidh leathnú ar chineál coillearnaí atá tearc in Éirinn, an choillearnach iúir. Léiríonn taifid na pailine iontaise go raibh coillearnach an iúir i bhfad níos coitianta in Éirinn tráth, go háirithe san iarthar.

www.coillte.ie/LIFE/woodlandrestoration/





Beech / Feá

Common exotic trees

Many non-native trees were planted in Galway, especially around the big houses as part of designed landscapes and in demesnes, and have become well-established in and beautiful additions to our gardens, parks, and landscapes. Beech, Horse Chestnut, Lime, Holm Oak, Field Maple, Copper Beech, Hornbeam, lots of different types of conifers, and many more have been planted over the years. In most cases exotic trees co-exist well with our native flora. Some like Beech and Sycamore can be problematic when they spread in native woodlands although both have their uses. Beech woodlands can be wonderful places to walk in when they have a carpet of bluebells on the woodland floor and Sycamore is a great tree to plant in exposed areas or where you need a timber crop in a hurry.



Sycamore / Seiceamar

Some introduced trees and shrubs, however, can pose a significant threat to woodlands when they become 'invasive' i.e. push out native trees and shrubs. Invasive species such as Rhododendron and Cherry Laurel are a big problem in Irish woods.

Focus on Rhododendron

Invasive species, such as Rhododendron, are introduced plants that spread rapidly because the conditions here are ideal, and their native pests and diseases are not present. They push out native plant species by preventing their regeneration. Rhododendron grows in such dense thickets nothing can grow or regenerate under the dense shade and heavy leaf litter it produces. Such invasive species pose a significant threat to Irish biodiversity, especially in context of climate change. Many woodlands in the west of Ireland are infested with Rhododendron. It is extremely difficult to eradicate because it re-sprouts easily when cut and it produces millions of tiny seeds which spread far and wide easily.

See www.invasivespeciesireland.ie for more information.



Rhododendron in flower / An Róslabhras faoi bhláth

Crainn andúchasacha choitianta

Cuireadh go leor crann neamhdhúchasach i nGaillimh, go háirithe timpeall ar na tithe móra mar chuid de thírdhreacha deartha agus i ndiméinte, agus tá siad bunaithe go maith inár ngairdíní, ár bpáirceanna agus ár dtírdhreacha, mar a gcuireann siad go mór leo. Cuireadh an fheá, an cnó capaill, an teile, an dair thoilm, an mhailp, an fheá rua, an crann sleamhain, go leor cineálacha crann buaircíneach agus go leor eile thar na blianta. I bhformhór na gcásanna cómhaireann crainn andúchasacha go maith lenár bhflóra dúchasach. Bíonn fadhb ag baint le cuid díobh, amhail an fheá agus an seiceamar, nuair a leathann siad i gcoillearnacha dúchasacha, cé go bhfuil úsáid le baint astu beirt. Is álainn an limistéar an choillearnach feá chun siúlóide nuair a bhíonn brat coinnle corra ar urlár na coillearnaí, agus is crann breá an seiceamar le cur i gceantair rite nó in áit a dteastaíonn barr adhmaid uait go luath.

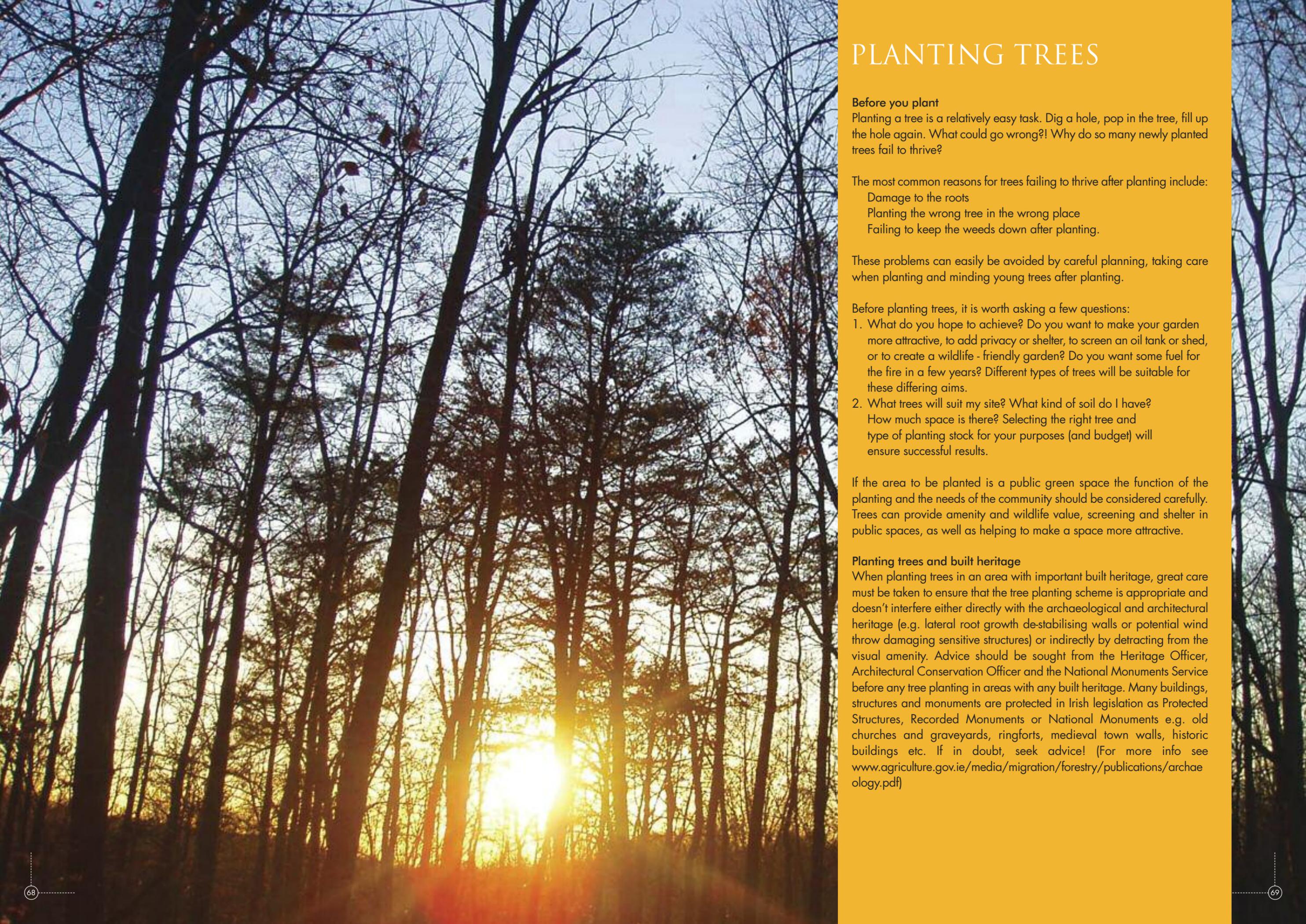
Ach is baol suntasach do choillearnacha cuid de na crainn agus na toim a tugadh isteach sa tír, áfach, nuair a bhíonn siad ionrach, is é sin go mbrúnn siad crainn agus toim dhúchasacha faoi chois. Is fadhb mhór i gcoillte na hÉireann na speicis ionracha mar an róslabhras agus an labhras silíní.

Fócas ar an Róslabhras (Rhododendron)

Is plandaí iad na speicis ionracha a thugtar isteach agus a scaipeann go tapa de bharr na cúinsí anseo a bheith an-fhabhrach, agus gan a gcuid lotnaidí ná a ngalair dhúchasacha a bheith anseo. Ruaigeann siad na speicis dhúchasacha trína n-athghiniúint a chosc. Fásann an róslabhras i mothair a bhíonn chomh dlúth sin nach féidir le haon rud eile fás ná athghiniúint faoin scáth dlúth agus an easair dhuillí a dhéanann sé. Is bagairt shuntasach do bhithéagsúlacht na hÉireann atá ina leithéid de speiceas ionrach, go háirithe i gcomhthéacs an athrú aeráide. Tá go leor coillearnach in iarthar na hÉireann brata leis an róslabhras. Tá sé an-deacair é a scrios mar go ndéanann sé athphéacadh go héasca nuair a ghearrtar é agus go dtáirgeann sé na milliúin síol bídeach a scaipeann i gcéin agus i gcóngar go héasca.

Féach www.invasivespeciesireland.ie chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil.





PLANTING TREES

Before you plant

Planting a tree is a relatively easy task. Dig a hole, pop in the tree, fill up the hole again. What could go wrong?! Why do so many newly planted trees fail to thrive?

The most common reasons for trees failing to thrive after planting include:

- Damage to the roots
- Planting the wrong tree in the wrong place
- Failing to keep the weeds down after planting.

These problems can easily be avoided by careful planning, taking care when planting and minding young trees after planting.

Before planting trees, it is worth asking a few questions:

1. What do you hope to achieve? Do you want to make your garden more attractive, to add privacy or shelter, to screen an oil tank or shed, or to create a wildlife - friendly garden? Do you want some fuel for the fire in a few years? Different types of trees will be suitable for these differing aims.
2. What trees will suit my site? What kind of soil do I have? How much space is there? Selecting the right tree and type of planting stock for your purposes (and budget) will ensure successful results.

If the area to be planted is a public green space the function of the planting and the needs of the community should be considered carefully. Trees can provide amenity and wildlife value, screening and shelter in public spaces, as well as helping to make a space more attractive.

Planting trees and built heritage

When planting trees in an area with important built heritage, great care must be taken to ensure that the tree planting scheme is appropriate and doesn't interfere either directly with the archaeological and architectural heritage (e.g. lateral root growth de-stabilising walls or potential wind throw damaging sensitive structures) or indirectly by detracting from the visual amenity. Advice should be sought from the Heritage Officer, Architectural Conservation Officer and the National Monuments Service before any tree planting in areas with any built heritage. Many buildings, structures and monuments are protected in Irish legislation as Protected Structures, Recorded Monuments or National Monuments e.g. old churches and graveyards, ringforts, medieval town walls, historic buildings etc. If in doubt, seek advice! (For more info see www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/publications/archaeology.pdf)

CUR CRANN

Sula gcuireann tú

Jab sách éasca is ea crann a chur. Déan poll, cuir an crann isteach, líon an poll arís. Ní féidir dul amú leis, an féidir?! Ach cén fáth nach mbíonn rath ar go leor crann nuachurtha?

Is iad seo a leanas na fáthanna is coitianta nach mbíonn rath ar chrainn i ndiaidh a gcuir:

Damáiste do na fréamhacha

An crann mícheart a chur san áit mhícheart.

Gan fiaile a ghlanadh i ndiaidh crann a chur.

Is éasca na fadhbanna seo a sheachaint trí phleanáil chúramach a dhéanamh roimh ré, trína bheith airdeallach le linn crainn a bheith á gcur agus trí aire a thabhairt do chrainn óga i ndiaidh a gcuir.

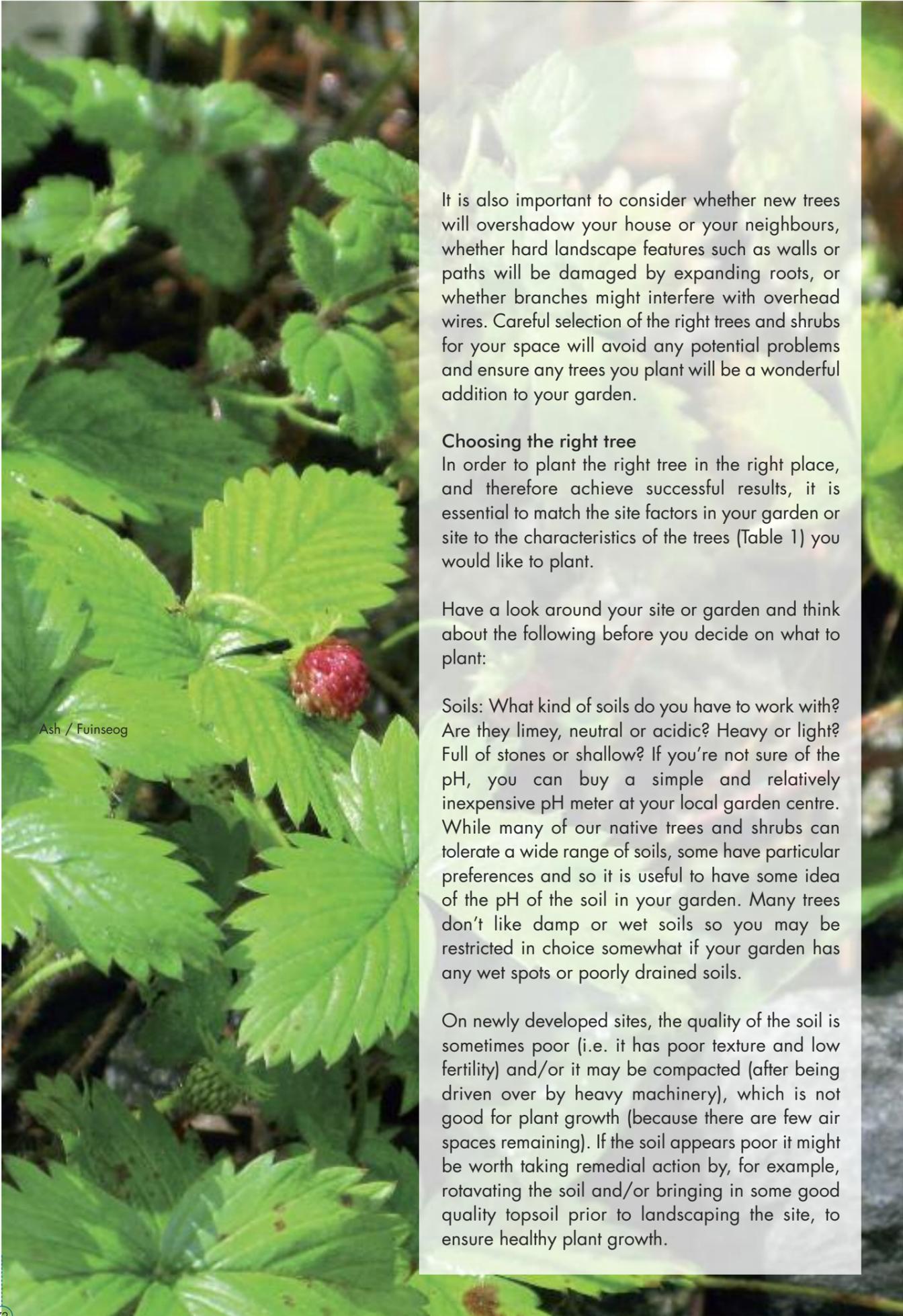
Moltar duit cúpla ceist a chur ort féin sula dtabharfaidh tú faoi chrainn a chur:

1. Cén sprioc atá agat? Ar mhaith leat caoi níos tarraingtí a chur ar do ghairdín, príobháid nó foscadh a chur leis, seid nó dabhach stórála ola a fholú, nó gairdín a thacóidh le fiadhúlra a dhéanamh? B'fhéidir gur mhian leat stór breosla tine faoi cheann cúpla bliain? Bheadh cineálacha éagsúla crann feiliúnach do na cuspóirí difriúla seo.
2. Céard iad na cineálacha crann is oiriúnaí do mo shuíomh féin? Cén sórt ithreach atá agam? An bhfuil mórán spáis ann? Má roghnaíonn tú an crann ceart agus an cineál stoic is fearr le cur le haghaidh do chuspóirí (agus do bhuiséid), beidh rath ar an obair.

Má tá crainn le cur i spás glas poiblí, ní mór feidhm an chuir agus riachtanais an phobail a mheas go cúramach. Is ábhar luachmhar iad crainn don taitneamhacht agus don fhiadhúlra, tugann siad sciath agus foscadh do spásanna poiblí, agus cabhraíonn siad le spás a dhéanamh níos tarraingtí.

Crainn a chur agus an oidhreacht thógtha

Nuair atáthar i mbun crainn a chur in áit lena mbaineann tábhacht don oidhreacht thógtha, ní mór a bheith an-chúramach lena chinntiú go mbeartaítear scéim chúí curtha crann agus nach gcuirtear isteach go díreach ar an oidhreacht seandálaíochta agus ailtireachta (e.g. ballaí a dhíchobhsú le fás na bhfréamhacha cliathánacha nó damáiste a dhéanamh do struchtúir íogaire mar thoradh ar ghaothstoitheadh) nó go hindíreach trí dhochar a dhéanamh don taitneamhacht amhairc. Ba cheart comhairle a fháil ón Oifigeach Oidhreachta, ón Oifigeach Caomhantais Ailtireachta agus ón tSeirbhís Séadchomharthaí Náisiúnta sula gcuirtear crainn i gceantair lena mbaineann oidhreacht thógtha. Cosnaítear go leor foirgneamh, struchtúr agus séadchomharthaí faoi reachtaíocht na hÉireann mar Struchtúir atá faoi Chosaint, Séadchomharthaí Taifeadta nó Séadchomharthaí Náisiúnta m.sh. seaneaglaisí agus seanreiligí, liosanna, ballaí baile meánaoiseacha, foirgnimh stairiúla etc. Má bhíonn aon amhras ort, lorg comhairle! (Chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil, féach www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/publications/archaeology.pdf)



It is also important to consider whether new trees will overshadow your house or your neighbours, whether hard landscape features such as walls or paths will be damaged by expanding roots, or whether branches might interfere with overhead wires. Careful selection of the right trees and shrubs for your space will avoid any potential problems and ensure any trees you plant will be a wonderful addition to your garden.

Choosing the right tree

In order to plant the right tree in the right place, and therefore achieve successful results, it is essential to match the site factors in your garden or site to the characteristics of the trees (Table 1) you would like to plant.

Have a look around your site or garden and think about the following before you decide on what to plant:

Soils: What kind of soils do you have to work with? Are they limey, neutral or acidic? Heavy or light? Full of stones or shallow? If you're not sure of the pH, you can buy a simple and relatively inexpensive pH meter at your local garden centre. While many of our native trees and shrubs can tolerate a wide range of soils, some have particular preferences and so it is useful to have some idea of the pH of the soil in your garden. Many trees don't like damp or wet soils so you may be restricted in choice somewhat if your garden has any wet spots or poorly drained soils.

On newly developed sites, the quality of the soil is sometimes poor (i.e. it has poor texture and low fertility) and/or it may be compacted (after being driven over by heavy machinery), which is not good for plant growth (because there are few air spaces remaining). If the soil appears poor it might be worth taking remedial action by, for example, rotavating the soil and/or bringing in some good quality topsoil prior to landscaping the site, to ensure healthy plant growth.

Ash / Fuinseog

Tá sé tábhachtach, freisin, na rudaí seo a mheas: an bhféadfadh crainn nua scáil a chaitheamh ar do theach nó ar theach do chomharsan, an ndéanfar damáiste do ghnéithe crua tírdhreacha amhail ballaí nó cosáin de bharr fréamhacha atá ag leathnú, nó an gcuirfidh géaga crainn isteach ar shreanga lasnairde. Déan rogha cúramach maidir leis na crainn agus na toim is cirte don spás atá agat chun fadhbanna amach anseo a sheachaint agus bainfidh tú an leas is fearr as aon chrann a chuirfidh tú le do ghairdín.

An crann ceart a roghnú

D'fhonn an crann ceart a chur san áit cheart, agus na torthaí is fearr a bhaint amach dá bharr, ní mór duit na cúinsí súimh i do ghairdín nó i do shuíomh a mheaitseáil le tréithe na gcrann (Tábla 1) ar mhaith leat iad a chur.

Ithreacha: Cén sórt ithreacha atá agat i gcomhair na hoibre? An bhfuil siad aolmhar, neodrach nó aigéadach? Trom nó éadrom? Lán le clocha nó éadomhain? Mura bhfuil tú cinnte faoin pH, is féidir leat méadar pH atá simplí agus sách saor a cheannach i d'ionad garraíodóireachta áitiúil. Cé go nglacfaidh go leor dár gcuid crann agus tom dúchasach le réimse leathan ithreacha, fásfaidh cuid acu níos fearr faoi dhálaí sonracha agus is áisiúil é tuairim a bheith agat faoin luach pH atá in ithir do ghairdín. Tá cuid mhaith crann nach bhfeileann ithir thais nó fliuch dóibh agus beidh rogha srianta agat mar sin má bhíonn spotaí fliucha nó ithreacha drochdhraenáilte i do ghairdín.

Uaireanta bíonn droch-chaighdeán ar an ithir i gcás súimh nuafhorbartha (i.e. ní bhíonn an uigeacht ná an torthúlacht go maith inti) agus/nó seans go bhfuil sí balccha (tar éis innealra trom a thiomáint uirthi), rud a chuireann isteach ar fhás plandaí (cheal dóthain spáis fanta san ithir le haghaidh aeir). Mura bhfuil cuma mhaith ar an ithir, b'fhiú duit b'fhéidir gníomhú le rudaí a chur i gceart tríd an ithir a rótachartadh, cuir i gcás, agus/nó barrithir ardchaighdeáin a thabhairt isteach sula ndéanfaidh tú an suíomh a thírdhreachadh, chun fás plandaí folláine a chinntiú.



Space: Obviously it is important to consider the space available before you decide what to plant. You don't want to plant a tree that will quickly grow to be a giant in a tiny garden. What size tree will look good in the space available? There are several native trees and shrubs that will fit nicely into small spaces and plenty that will fill a big space. The Tree Selection Guide (Table 1) indicates the maximum size of the main native trees and shrubs. Remember that root spread often extends beyond the crown of the tree (i.e. extent of the branches) and therefore large trees should not be planted too close to buildings or walls. It's also a good idea to look up before planting and check for overhead cables. A fast-growing tree won't take long to cause problems for overhead wires!

Exposed and/or coastal areas: Is your garden on the side of a hill receiving the full brunt of the prevailing winds? Are you close to the coast? Certain trees are more tolerant of exposure than others (see Table 2). Once you have created some shelter in your garden, you can grow a wider range of plants that are less tolerant of windy conditions. Creating a shelter-belt will help you enjoy being outdoors in your garden and can significantly cut your heating bills.

County Galway has a long coastline and much of the coastal zone is not very conducive to tree growth because it is exposed to salt-laden winds. Some trees and shrubs, however, do manage to survive in these areas and can be used to create a windbreak and provide shelter for your house and garden (Table 2).

Table 2: Native trees and shrubs that tolerate exposure

Common name	Latin name
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> *
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i> *
Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i> *
Burnet rose	<i>Rosa spinosissima</i> *
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i> *
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus aria</i> *
Willows	<i>Salix</i>

* Can also tolerate coastal conditions



Self Heal / Duán ceannchosach

Spás: Is léir an tábhacht atá le méid an spáis a mheas sula ndéanfaidh tú aon chinneadh maidir le cur. Níor mhaith leat crann a chur i ngairdín beag bídeach a d'fhásfadh go tapa chomh mór le fathach. Ceard é méid an chrainn a bheadh go deas breathnú air sa spás atá ar fáil? Fásfaidh roinnt crann agus tom dúchasach go deas néata i spásanna beaga agus tá go leor díobh a líonfaidh spás mór. Léirítear uasairde na bpríomhchrann agus na bpríomhthom dúchasach sa Treoir maidir le Roghnú Crainn (Tábla 1). Ná dearmad gur minic a leathann na fréamhacha thar achar níos leithne ná barr an chrainn (i.e. fairsinge na gcrabhacha) agus dá bharr sin níor cheart crann a chur róchóngarach d'fhoirgnimh nó do bhallaí. Moltar duit breathnú suas in airde freisin agus seiceáil le haghaidh cáblaí lasnairde sula gcuirfidh tú aon chrann. Ní thógfadh sé i bhfad ar chrann mearfháis a bheith ag cur isteach ar shreanga lasnairde!

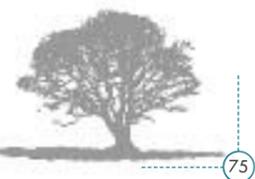
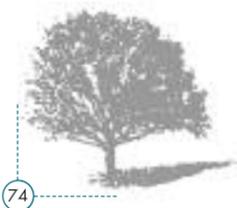
Ceantair sceirdiúla agus/nó cois cósta: An bhfuil do ghairdín suite ar thaobh cnoic agus buailte ag lánchumhacht na bpríomhghaoth? An bhfuil tú gar don chósta? Tá crainn áirithe a ghlacfaidh níos fearr le nochtadh don aimsir ná crainn eile (Féach Tábla 2). Nuair a bheidh foscadh de shaghas éigin cruthaithe agat i do ghairdín, féadfaidh tú raon níos leithne plandaí a chur nach bhfeileann dálaí gaofara dóibh. Má chruthaíonn tú crios foscaidh bainfidh tú taitneamh as a bheith amuigh i do ghairdín agus d'fhéadfá do bhíllí téimh a laghdú go suntasach dá réir.

Tá imeallbhord fada le Contae na Gaillimhe agus tá cuid mhaith den chrios cósta mí-oiriúnach le haghaidh fás crann mar gheall ar a nochtadh do ghaotha lán le salann. Tá roinnt crann agus tom ann, áfach, ar féidir leo maireachtáil sna ceantair seo agus is féidir iad a úsáid le fál foscaidh a chruthú agus foscadh a chur ar fáil don teach agus don ghairdín (Tábla 2).

Tábla 2: Crainn agus toim dhúchasacha a ghlacann le nochtadh don aimsir

Ainm coiteann	Ainm Laidine
An Fhuinseog	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> *
An Draighean	<i>Prunus spinosa</i> *
An Ghiolcach Shléibhe	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i> *
An Briúlán	<i>Rosa spinosissima</i> *
An tAiteann Gallda	<i>Ulex europaeus</i> *
An Sceach Gheal	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
An Cuileann	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
An tAiteal	<i>Juniperus communis</i>
An Crann Caorthainn	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
An Péine Albanach	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
An Fionnholl	<i>Sorbus aria</i> *
Saileacha	<i>Salix</i>

* Is féidir leis cur suas le dálaí cósta chomh maith



TREE SELECTION GUIDE TABLE 1

Common name	Site Suitability				Max Height (m)	Biodiversity Value	Attractive Features
	Public open spaces	Streets & confined spaces	Tubs containers beds	Hedges			
Alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	✓	x	x	✓	20 Fast	Seeds for birds and Red Squirrel.	Catkins and cones
Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	✓	x	x	✓	28 Med.	Light shade good for ground flora; seeds good for birds, small mammals.	Foliage
Aspen <i>Populus tremula</i>	✓	x	x	x	24 Fast	Insects.	Autumn colour
Birch, Downy <i>Betula pubescens</i>	✓	✓	✓	x	24 Med./ fast	Seeds good for birds, Red Squirrels. Dead wood - very good for insects and fungi.	Catkins, bark, foliage, autumn colour
Birch, Silver <i>Betula pendula</i>	✓	✓	✓	x	18 Med./ fast	Seeds good for birds, Red Squirrels. Dead wood - very good for insects and fungi.	Catkins, bark, foliage, autumn colour
Bird Cherry <i>Prunus padus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	6 Med.	Early flowering good for insects; fruit good for birds.	Flowers, berries, autumn colour
Blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i>	✓	x	x	✓	4 Med.	Insects. Provides nesting cover and berries for birds.	Flowers, berries
Buckthorn, Alder <i>Frangula alnus</i>	✓	x	✓	✓	6 Med.	Food plant of Brimstone Butterfly.	Berries
Buckthorn, Purging <i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>	✓	x	✓	x	5 Med.	Foodplant of the Brimstone Butterfly.	Berries
Crab Apple <i>Malus sylvestris</i>	✓	x	x	✓	6 Slow	Early flowering good for insects; fruit good for insects, small mammals, birds	Flowers and fruit
Elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	✓	x	x	✓	6 Fast	Insects and birds.	Flowers, berries
Guelder Rose <i>Viburnum opulus</i>	✓	x	x	✓	4.5 Med.	Insects and birds.	Flowers, berries, autumn colour
Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	9 Med/ fast	Provides excellent food and cover and adaptable.	Flowers, berries
Hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>	✓	✓	x	✓	6 Fast/ Med.	Birds, small mammals, insects.	Catkins, nuts
Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	15 Slow	Berries important for birds; food plant of Holly Blue Butterfly; winter roosting for birds.	Evergreen foliage, berries (female only)

Common name	Site Suitability				Max Height (m)	Biodiversity Value	Attractive Features
	Public open spaces	Streets & confined spaces	Tubs containers beds	Hedges			
Whitebeam <i>Sorbus aria</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	15 Med.	Insects. Important berry crop.	Foliage, flowers, berries
Juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i>	✓	x	x	x	6 Med.	Birds.	Evergreen foliage
Pedunculate Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	✓	x	x	x	30 Med.	Food and cover for birds, squirrels, and insects. Dead wood. Fungi. Epiphytes.	Foliage, autumn colour, acorns
Rowan <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	9 Fast	Insects. Important berry crop.	Flowers and berries
Scots Pine <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	✓	x	x	x	24 Med.	Good for nesting and winter roosting birds. Cones excellent for Red Squirrel.	Cones, evergreen foliage
Sessile Oak <i>Quercus petraea</i>	✓	x	x	x	30 Med.	Food and cover for birds, squirrels, insects. Dead wood. Fungi.	Foliage, autumn colour, acorns
Spindle <i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	✓	x	x	✓	7 Med.	Good for insects.	Flowers, berries, autumn colour
Wild Cherry <i>Prunus avium</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	15 Med.	Early flowering good for insects. Fruit good for birds.	Flowers, berries, autumn colour
Willow <i>Salix spp.</i>	✓	x	x	✓	6 Fast	Birds, insects, fungi, dead wood.	Catkins, autumn colour
Wych Elm <i>Ulmus glabra</i>	✓	x	x	✓	30 Med.	Early flowers for insects; seeds for red squirrels. Lichens. Dead wood.	Autumn colour
Yew <i>Taxus baccata</i>	✓	x	✓	x	14 Slow	Berries good for birds.	Evergreen. Berries (female only).

The information in this Table is based on various sources.:

County Galway Biodiversity Guidelines (www.galwaycountybiodiversity.com)
 Fuller, J. 2008. Hedgerows of County Galway. Galway County Council.
 Fuller, J. 2007. Buds of the Banner. Clare County Council.
 Heritage council. Conserving and Enhancing Wildlife in Towns and Villages.
 People's Millennium Forests, 2000. Our Trees – A guide to growing Ireland's native trees in celebration of a new millennium.
 The People's Millennium Forests Project.

TREOIR MAIDIR LE ROGHNÚ CRAINN TÁBLA 1

Ainm coiteann	Oiriúnacht Suímh				Uasairde (m)	Luach Bithéagsúlachta	Gnéithe Tarraingteacha
	Spásanna oscailte poiblí	Sráideanna & spásanna teoranta	Tobáin, coimeádáin, ceapacha	Fálta			
An Fhearnóg <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	✓	x	x	✓	20 Fast	Síolta d'éin agus don iora rua.	Caitíní agus buaircíní
An Fhuinseog <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	✓	x	x	✓	28 Measartha	Scáil éadrom atá go maith le haghaidh flóra talún; tá na síolta go maith d'éin agus do mhamaigh bheaga.	Duilleúr
An Crann Creathach <i>Populus tremula</i>	✓	x	x	x	24 Mear	Feithidí	Dath san fhómhar
An Bheith Chlúmhach <i>Betula pubescens</i>	✓	✓	✓	x	24 Measartha/Mear	Tá na síolta go maith d'éin d'ioraí rua. Adhmad marbh - an mhaith d'fheithidí agus d'fhungais.	Caitíní, coirt, duilliúr, dath san fhómhar
An Bheith Gheal <i>Betula pendula</i>	✓	✓	✓	x	18 Measartha/Mear	Tá na síolta go maith d'éin, d'ioraí rua. Adhmad marbh - an mhaith d'fheithidí agus d'fhungais.	Caitíní, coirt, duilliúr, dath san fhómhar
An Donnroisc <i>Prunus padus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	6 Measartha	Tá an luathbhláthú go maith d'fheithidí; na torthaí go maith d'éin.	Bláthanna, caora, dath san fhómhar
An Draighean <i>Prunus spinosa</i>	✓	x	x	✓	4 Measartha	Feithidí. Cuireann sé cumhdach neadaithe agus caora ar fáil d'éin.	Bláthanna, caora
An Draighean Fearna <i>Frangula alnus</i>	✓	x	✓	✓	6 Measartha	Biophlanda don bhúig ruihbheach.	Caora
An Paide Bréan <i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>	✓	x	✓	x	5 Measartha	Biophlanda don bhúig ruihbheach.	Caora
An Fia-Úll <i>Malus sylvestris</i>	✓	x	x	✓	6 Mall	An luathbhláthú go maith d'fheithidí; na torthaí go maith d'fheithidí, do mhamaigh bheaga agus d'éin.	Bláthanna agus torthaí
An Trom <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	✓	x	x	✓	6 Mear	Feithidí agus éin	Bláthanna, caora, dath san fhómhar
An Chaor Chon <i>Viburnum opulus</i>	✓	x	x	✓	4.5 Measartha	Feithidí agus éin	Bláthanna, caora, dath san fhómhar
An Sceach Gheal <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	9 Measartha/Mear	Cuireann sé cumhdach agus bia den scoth ar fáil d'fheithidí agus d'éin.	Bláthanna, caora
An Coll <i>Corylus avellana</i>	✓	✓	x	✓	6 Mear/Measartha	Éin, mamaigh bheaga, feithidí.	Caitíní, cnónna

Ainm coiteann	Oiriúnacht Suímh				Uasairde (m)	Luach Bithéagsúlachta	Gnéithe Tarraingteacha	
	Spásanna oscailte poiblí	Sráideanna & spásanna teoranta	Tobáin, coimeádáin, ceapacha	Fálta				Ráta fáis
An Cuileann <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	15 Mall	Speiceas cruá; in ann cur suas le scáth agus le láithreáin nocht don aimsir; fásann i réimse leathan cineálacha ithreach ach amháin ithir nach bhfuil draenáil mhaith inti.	Tá na caora tábhachtach d'éin; biophlanda don ghormán cuilinn; téann na héin ar an bhfara ann sa gheimhridh.	Duilleúr síorghlas, caora (i gcás na mbaineannach amháin)
An Fionncholl <i>Sorbus aria</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	15 Measartha	Is fearr leis ithreacha atá idir aolmhar agus neodrach; fásfaidh sé ar an gcósta, ar thalamh carraigeach agus ar láithreáin thaise ach ní fásfaidh in ithreacha atá an-fhliuch.	Feithidí. Barr tábhachtach caor.	Duilleúr, bláthanna, caora
An tAiteal <i>Juniperus communis</i>	✓	x	x	x	6 Measartha	Fásann in áiteanna carraigeacha agus ar fhraochmhá sléibhe; in ann glacadh le nochtadh don aimsir.	Éin	Duilleúr síorghlas
An Dair Ghallda <i>Quercus robur</i>	✓	x	x	x	30 Measartha	Is fearr leis ithreacha troma agus torthúla ach glactaidh le raon leathan ithreacha taise; oiriúnach do spásanna móra.	Bia agus foscadh d'éin, d'ioraí rua agus d'fheithidí. Adhmad marbh. Fungais. Eipifítí.	Duilleúr, dath an fhómhar, dearcáin
An Crann Caorthainn <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	9 Mear	An-chrua; in ann cur suas le hithreacha atá bocht agus éadomhain; ní oireann áiteanna fliucha dó.	Feithidí. Barr tábhachtach caor.	Bláthanna agus caora.
An Péine Albanach <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	✓	x	x	x	24 Measartha	Is fearr leis ithreacha tirime éadroime gainmheacha; glactaidh sé le talamh imeallach agus le hithreacha móinteacha.	Go maith d'éin ghoir agus d'éin a théann ar an bhfara sa gheimhreadh. Tá na buaircíní an-mhaith don iora rua.	Buaircíní, duilliúr síorghlas
An Dair Ghaelach <i>Quercus petraea</i>	✓	x	x	x	30 Measartha	Fásann in ithreacha bochta, aigéadacha ach draenáil mhaith a bheith iontu; oiriúnach do spásanna móra.	Bia agus foscadh d'éin, d'ioraí rua agus d'fheithidí. Adhmad marbh. Fungais.	Duilleúr, dath san fhómhar, dearcáin
An Crann Feorais <i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	✓	x	x	✓	7 Measartha	Is fearr leis ithreacha troma aolmhara ach glactaidh sé le raon leathan ithreacha.	Go maith d'fheithidí.	Bláthanna, caora, dath san fhómhar
An Silín Fiáin <i>Prunus avium</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	15 Measartha	Is fearr leis ithreacha torthúla (beagán aigéadach); glactaidh sé le hithreacha troma agus le beagán scátha; ní oireann áiteanna fliucha dó.	Tá an luathbhláthú go maith d'fheithidí. Torthaí go maith d'éin.	Bláthanna, caora, dath san fhómhar
An tSaileach <i>Salix spp.</i>	✓	x	x	✓	6 Mear	Fásann in ithreacha taise/fliucha cois abhann, cois locha agus ar thuilemhánna.	Éin, feithidí, fungais, adhmad marbh.	Caitíní, dath an fhómhair
An Leamhán Sléibhe <i>Ulmus glabra</i>	✓	x	x	✓	30 Measartha	Bíonn rath air in ithir thorthúil dhea-dhraenáilte; scáthfhulangach; ní oireann áiteanna an-tirime dó.	Na luathbhláthanna go maith d'fheithidí; na síolta go maith d'ioraí rua. Léicin. Adhmad marbh.	Dath san fhómhar
An tIúr <i>Taxus baccata</i>	✓	x	✓	x	14 Mall	Is fearr leis ithreacha dea-dhraenáilte alcaileacha; in ann fás faoi scáth domhain nó in áiteanna carraigeacha. Tá na síolta agus na duillí nimhiúil.	Tá na caora go maith d'éin	Síorghlas. Caora (i gcás na mbaineannach amháin)

Tá an t-eolas sa Tábla seo bunaithe ar fhoinní éagsúla:

County Galway Biodiversity Guidelines (www.galwaycountybiodiversity.com). Fuller, J. 2008. The Hedgerows of County Galway. Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe, Gaillimh. Fuller, J. 2007. Buds of the Banner. Comhairle Contae an Chláir. An Chomhairle Oidhreachta. Conserving and Enhancing Wildlife in Towns and Villages. Peoples Millennium Forests, 2000. Our Trees – A guide to growing Ireland's native trees in celebration of a new millennium. The Peoples Millennium Forests Project.



Characteristics of our native trees and shrubs

The Tree Selection Guide (Table 1) indicates the relevant characteristics of the main native trees and shrubs in Ireland. This guide lists the maximum height of each of the trees and shrubs although size can vary considerably from site to site depending on the nature of the soil and local environment. Those trees and shrubs that are suitable for shaded or exposed gardens are also indicated. Growth rate is important if you want something to quickly provide screening or shelter. The value of each species to wildlife (= biodiversity value) is also briefly described, which can help you decide what to plant if you want to create a wildlife-friendly garden. The most attractive features of each tree and shrub are noted to assist garden design.

Types of planting stock available

People often don't realise when buying trees and shrubs that there is a range of sizes and types of planting stock available. The right choice for you depends on the scale of planting (e.g. a large area to be planted or a small garden), the planting scheme (e.g. a public green space where immediate impact may be required), and the nature of site (e.g. exposed or sheltered) and of course, the budget.



Bare-root tree / Crann fréamhlom

Trees and shrubs can be bought from a tree nursery, garden centre, or even by mail order. The main types of planting stock available are: i) bare-rooted trees in winter, ii) pot or container grown trees and iii) root-balled trees. And they come in a range of sizes from 'whips' (45 cm - 250 cm height), to light standards (6-8 cm girth), standards (8-10 cm girth) and heavy standards (12-14 cm girth), and various sizes in between.

The best approach when choosing trees is to buy a range of sizes, if you can. Large trees (known as 'heavy standards') make an immediate and often impressive impact adding instant maturity to your garden but they are more difficult to plant, require staking and can be expensive. Smaller trees are easier to move and plant, are more likely to establish successfully, may not require staking, can adapt more easily to exposed sites, and are usually considerably cheaper (depending on the species). By purchasing one or two large trees (or more depending on space and budget) and several smaller trees, you can transform the green space around your house into a beautiful mature garden.



Saintréithe ár gcrann agus ár dtom dúchasach

Léiríonn an Treoir maidir le Roghnú Crann (Tábla 1) na saintréithe ábhartha a bhaineann le príomhchrainn agus príomhthoim dhúchasacha na hÉireann. Liostaítear uasairde gach crann agus tom sa treoir seo cé gur féidir athrú suntasach a bheith ann ó shuíomh go súiomh ag brath ar nádúr na hithreach agus ar an timpeallacht áitiúil. Tugtar léiriú freisin ar na crainn agus toim sin a bheadh oiriúnach do ghairdíní a bhíonn faoi scath nó dóibh siúd atá nochtta don aimsir. Tá tábhacht leis an ráta fáis más mian leat rud éigin a dhéanfaidh sciath nó foscadh go luath. Luaitear freisin an luach atá ag gach speiceas don fhiadhúlra (= luach bithéagsúlachta), rud a chabhróidh leat i do rogha plandaithe más gairdín báúil don fhiadhúlra atá uait. Déantar cur síos freisin ar na gnéithe is tarraingtí a bhaineann le gach crann agus tom chun cuidiú le dearadh gairdín.

Cineálacha stoic le cur atá ar fáil

Is minic nach gcuimhníonn daoine nuair atá siad i mbun crainn agus toim a cheannach go mbíonn stoc le cur ar fáil i réimse leathan méideanna agus cineálacha éagsúla. Braithfidh an rogha is cirte duitse ar an scála plandaithe (e.g. achar mór nó gairdín beag le cur), ar an scéim plandaithe (e.g. spás glas poiblí ina mbíonn éifeacht láithreach ag teastáil), agus ar nádúr an láithreáin (e.g. cibé atá, nó nach bhfuil, foscadh ann) agus ar ndóigh, ar an mbuiséad.

Is féidir leat crainn agus toim a cheannach ó phlandlann chrann, ó ionad garraíodóireachta, nó fiú ó ghnólacht postdiola. Is iad seo a leanas na príomhchineálacha stoic atá ar fáil: i) crainn fhréamhloma sa gheimhreadh, ii) crainn a fhástar i bpota nó i gcoimeádán, agus iii) crainn le daba fréamhacha orthu. Bíonn siad ar fáil de réir méideanna éagsúla ó bhuinneáin (45 - 250 cm ar airde) go crainn éadroma chaighdeánaithe (6 - 8 cm timpeall), crainn chaighdeánaithe (8 - 10 cm timpeall) agus crainn throma chaighdeánaithe (12 - 14 cm timpeall) agus méideanna éagsúla laistigh de na réimsí sin.

Agus tú i mbun crainn a roghnú is é an cur chuige is fearr ná raon méideanna difriúla a cheannach, más féidir. Bíonn éifeacht láithreach agus mhórthaibhseach ag na crainn mhóra (ar a dtugtar 'crainn throma chaighdeánaithe') agus cuireann siad cuma aibí ar do ghairdín ar an toirt, ach bíonn siad níos deacra le cur, bíonn sá stacán i gceist leo agus d'fhéadfadh siad a bheith costasach. Tá sé níos éasca crainn bheaga a bhogadh agus a chur, is é is dóichí go mbunófaí go rathúil iad, seans nach mbeadh sá stacán ag teastáil uathu, téann siad i dtaithe níos fearr ar láithreáin sceirdiúla, agus go hiondúil bíonn siad i bhfad níos saoire (ag brath ar an speiceas atá ann). Má cheannaíonn tú crann mór nó dhó (nó níos mó ná sin ag brath ar an spás agus ar an mbuiséad) agus roinnt crann beag, is féidir leat gairdín álainn aibí a dhéanamh den spás glas timpeall an tí.

Native trees and shrubs raised in Ireland from Irish seed (which have the maximum ecological value and are most likely to thrive) are increasingly available. Much of the stock for sale, however, is still grown from imported seed or plants. Ask about the origin of the plants before you buy. Let the staff in your local nursery or garden centre know you would prefer truly native stock. A demand will increase the supply. Most of the nurseries and garden centres in Co. Galway sell some native trees and shrubs but not all are grown locally or from Irish seed.

i) Bare-rooted trees

Bare-rooted trees or 'whips' (i.e. they don't come in a pot and have little or no soil around their roots) are the cheapest option available. Whips are cheaper than nursery 'standards' (usually larger pot grown or root-balled trees), easier to transplant, and can often outgrow them in a few years. The best size of young tree for most situations is the whip that is about 45 cm to 100 cm high. Taller specimens can be considered if planting in sheltered locations. Bare-rooted trees can be planted only in the dormant season when the leaves are off the trees (the beginning of December until the end of March or April for conifers such as Scots pine and yew). Buy only plants with compact, bushy roots that have been well-stored (in soil). Once bare-rooted trees are taken out of the soil at the garden centre or nursery, they should be kept in heavy plastic bags (to prevent the roots from drying out) and stored in a cool dark dry place for a few weeks at most. Trees should be planted as soon as possible after buying.

ii) Pot grown and root-balled trees

Pot grown and root-balled trees are usually more expensive than bare-root trees, and can be much larger. These trees can be planted any time of the year but it is advisable to avoid planting immediately after the young leaves have opened. If possible, check that pot or container grown trees are not pot-bound (i.e. kept in the pot too long, with cramped roots ready to burst out of the pot).

Root-balled trees tend to be large trees (often >2.5m in height) that a tree nursery regularly lifts and root prunes to encourage the development of a network of fibrous roots surrounding a ball of soil. When the trees are to be delivered, the root-ball is covered in hessian sacking and wire mesh. These trees can be stored in a sheltered location but should be planted as soon as possible. The sacking and wire mesh do not need to be removed (they break down naturally). Loosen the 'neck' of the root-ball prior to planting to allow room for the trunk to grow.

Tá fáil níos mó ag teacht ar chrainn agus ar thoim dhúchasacha a fhástar in Éirinn ó shíolta Éireannacha (is mó an luach éiceolaíochta atá iontu agus is orthu is dóichí rath a theacht). I gcás formhór an stoic atá ar díol, áfach, fástar fós é as síolta nó as plandaí iompórtáilte. Cuir ceist faoi bhunús na bplandaí sula gceannóidh tú iad. Abair leis an bhfoireann i do phlandlann nó i d'ionad garraíodóireachta áitiúil gurbh fhearr leat stoc dúchasach. Tiocfaidh méadú ar an soláthar de réir éilimh. I measc formhór na bplandlann agus na n-ionad garraíodóireachta i gContae na Gaillimhe bíonn roinnt crann agus tom dúchasach le díol ach ní go háitiúil ná ó shíolta na hÉireann a fhástar iad uile.

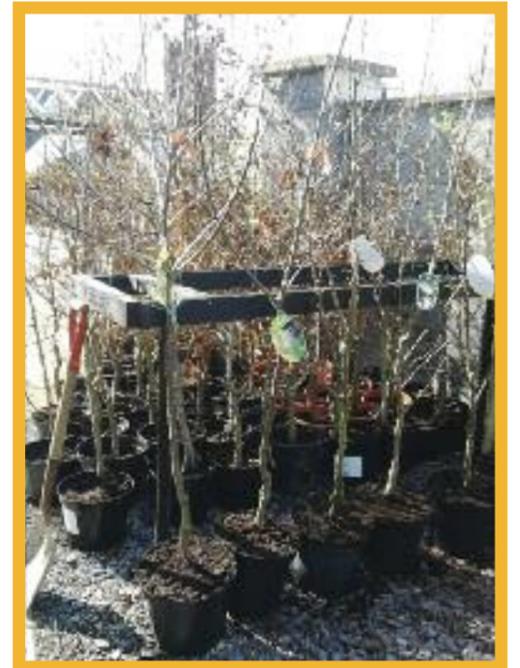
i) Crainn fhréamhloma

Is é an rogha is saoire atá ann na crainn fhréamhloma nó 'buinneáin' (i.e. ní i bpota a bhíonn siad agus is fíorbheagán ithreach a bhíonn timpeall na bhfréamhacha). Bíonn buinneáin níos saoire ná crainn phlandlainne chaighdeánaithe (de ghnáth is crainn níos mó iad seo a fásadh i bpotaí nó is crainn iad le daba fréamhacha orthu), bíonn siad níos éasca le hathchur, agus is féidir leo fás thar na cinn úd in imeacht roinnt blianta. Is é an buinneán, atá thart ar 45 cm go 100 cm ar airde, an méid is fearr do chrann óg faoi fhorhóir na ndálaí cuir. Is féidir crainn níos airde ná sin a roghnú má táthar á gcur i láithreáin faoi fhothain. Ní chuirtear crainn fhréamhloma ach sa séasúr suanach nuair nach mbíonn duilliúr orthu (tús mí na Nollag go dtí deireadh mí an Mháirta - nó mí Aibreáin i gcás buaircíneach amhail an péine albanach agus an t-iúr). Ná ceannaigh ach plandaí a bhfuil fréamhacha dlútha scothánacha orthu agus a bhí dea-stóráilte (in ithir). Nuair a bhaintear crainn fhréamhloma as an ithir san ionad garraíodóireachta nó sa phlandlann, ba cheart iad a choimeád i málaí troma plaisteacha (ionas nach dtriomóidh na fréamhacha) agus a chur in áit fhionnuar dhorchá thirim ar feadh cúpla seachtain ar a mhéad. Ba cheart crainn a chur chomh luath agus is féidir i ndiaidh a gceannaithe.

ii) Crainn a fhástar i bpota agus crainn le daba fréamhacha orthu

Go hiondúil bíonn crainn a fhástar i bpota agus crainn le daba fréamhacha orthu níos costasaí ná crainn fhréamhloma, agus d'fhéadfadh siad a bheith i bhfad níos airde. Is féidir na crainn seo a chur am ar bith i rith na bliana ach moltar gan iad a chur díreach i ndiaidh oscailt na nduilleog óg. Más féidir, seiceáil nach bhfuil crann ar fásadh i bpota nó i gcoimeádán é sáinnithe sa phota (i.e. coinnithe rófhada sa phota, agus a chuid fréamhacha cúngaithe réidh le pléascadh amach as an bpota).

De ghnáth bíonn crainn le daba fréamhacha orthu sách mór (go minic >2.5 m ar airde) agus iad á mbaint amach go rialta ag an bplandlann leis na fréamhacha a phrúnáil, rud a chuidíonn le gréasáin de fhréamhacha snáithíneacha a fhorbairt thart ar dhá bhfad ithreach. Nuair a bhíonn na crainn le seachadadh, cumhdaítear an daba fréamhacha le sacán heiseáin agus líontán sreinge. Is féidir na crainn seo a stóráil faoi fhothain ach ba chóir iad a chur chomh luath agus is féidir. Níl aon ghá leis an sacán agus an líontán sreinge a bhaint den chrann (dianscaoiltear iad go nádúrtha). Déan 'muineál' an daba fréamhacha a scaoileadh rud beag roimh phlandú chun spás a fhágáil d'fhás an tamhain.



Pot-grown trees / Crainn a fhástar i bpota

National Tree Week and Tree Day

National Tree Week is an annual festival celebrating the many positive aspects of trees in our lives and environment. It is organised by the Tree Council of Ireland and usually takes place during the first week in March. The main aim of the week is to raise awareness of the value of trees and to encourage people to plant trees. Contact the Environment Section of Galway County Council prior to Tree Week and you may be able to obtain some native trees for community tree planting projects. (Tel. 091 476402, E-mail environment@galwaycoco.ie). Tree Day is another national day to celebrate trees organised by the Tree Council. It is usually held in October. www.treecouncil.ie

Planting a tree

When planting a tree, dig a hole that is a good bit larger than the root area of the tree. Break up the subsoil at the bottom of the hole with a spade (to encourage the roots to grow down in search of water and anchorage). Spread a layer of well-rotted farmyard manure, garden compost or slow-release fertiliser (available in garden centres) in the base of the hole to help the young trees get off to a good start.

Place the tree (which has been soaking in a bucket of water) in the hole making sure that there is enough room to spread out the roots. Try to ensure that the tree is planted at the same depth as it was when growing in the nursery. This should be a little bit above the highest roots and is marked by a change in the colour of the stem. Planting too deeply may result in the tree stem rotting while planting too shallowly may result in the tree drying out if the roots are exposed. Fill in the soil over the roots ensuring that no roots or bark are damaged. Firm the soil around the roots carefully with your foot and water well after planting to settle the soil around the roots.



Seachtain Náisiúnta na gCrann agus Lá na gCrann

Féile bhliantúil is ea Seachtain Náisiúnta na gCrann a cheiliúrrann raidhse gnéithe dearfacha a bhaineann le crainn inár saol agus inár dtimpeallacht. Is í Comhairle Crann na hÉireann a eagraíonn an fhéile a bhíonn ar siúl de ghnáth i rith na chéad seachtaine i mí an Mhárta. Príomhaidhm na seachtaine is ea múscailt feasachta i measc an phobail ar luach na gcrann chomh maith le daoine a spreagadh chun crainn a chur. Déan teagmháil le Rannán Comhshaoil Chomhairle Contae na Gaillimhe roimh Sheachtain na gCrann agus féadfaidh tú roinnt crann dúchasach a fháil le haghaidh tionscadal pobail i gcur crann.

(Teil. 091 476402, R-phost environment@galwaycoco.ie). Lá náisiúnta eile a cheiliúrrann crann is ea Lá na gCrann atá faoi stiúir Chomhairle Crann na hÉireann. Is i mí Dheireadh Fómhair a bhíonn sé de ghnáth. www.treecouncil.ie

Crann a Chur

Nuair atá crann le cur agat, déan poll ar mhéid cuid mhaith níos mó ná an t-achar timpeall fréamhacha an chrainn. Tóg láí agus déan an fho-ithir i dtóin an phoill a bhriseadh go maith (chun na fréamhacha a spreagadh le fás anuas i dtreo an uisce agus an daingnithe). Leath ciseal d'aoileach lofa go maith, múirín nó leasachán mallghníomhach (ar fáil in ionaid gharraíodóireachta) i mbun an phoill chun tús maith a chur le fás na gcrann óg.

Leag an crann (a cuireadh ar maos i mbuicéad uisce roimhe seo) sa pholl, agus cinntigh go bhfuil neart spáis leis na fréamhacha a leathadh amach ann. Déan iarracht an crann a chur chomh domhain agus a bhí sé nuair a bhí sé ag fás sa phlandlann. Ba cheart é seo a bheith beagán os cionn na bhfréamhacha is airde agus léirítear é sin le hathrú datha sa tamhan. Má chuirtear crann ró-dhomhain d'fhéadfadh an tamhan lobhadh ach más ró-éadomhain a chuirtear é, tá an baol ann go dtriomóidh an crann má nochtar na fréamhacha. Cuir ithir thart ar na fréamhacha agus cinntigh nach ndéantar aon damáiste do na fréamhacha ná don choirt. Daingnigh an ithir timpeall na bhfréamhacha go cúramach le do chos agus déan tréan-uisciú i ndiaidh cuir leis an ithir a shocrú go maith timpeall na bhfréamhacha.





Alternatively small whips can be planted by pushing a spade into the soil, levering it backwards and lifting it out, leaving a slit to hold the roots. Place the roots of the whip in the slit and heel it in by firming the soil around the plant with your foot to seal the hole. It is not advisable to plant in very wet, windy or frosty conditions.

Trees grow best without stakes. Taller trees (>2m height), however, need a stake and tie until the roots are well established. Secure the stake in the planting hole before you plant (after temporarily positioning the tree) so that you don't damage the roots. When the tree has been planted, attach the stake to the trunk with a tree tie. A stake placed approximately one third the height of the tree should be all that is required for most trees (a double stake may be necessary for very large trees and/or in windy locations). The purpose of the stake is to help stabilise the roots, not to prop up the trunk. It should be possible to remove the stake entirely within two to three years of planting.

Ensuring successful results

If you've spent money planting a few trees, it's worth taking care of them! It doesn't take much effort but without some aftercare, many trees get choked by weeds, strangled by stake ties or slashed by strimmers and fail to reach their full potential, which can be disappointing.

Some tips for tree aftercare:

- Check young trees in the first few weeks after planting. Firm up the soil around them if necessary, especially after particularly windy weather in case the roots have loosened and trees are in danger of being blown out of the ground.
- In dry weather, newly planted trees should be watered as their root system may not yet be fully developed. This is particularly important immediately after planting trees but also for the first growing season (i.e. spring until autumn).
- During the first few years young trees have to compete with grass and weeds for nutrients and water. Give them a helping hand by keeping a weed-free area around the tree. This is particularly important for small trees. Mulching is a simple and effective method for suppressing weeds around trees and at the same time keeping the ground surface moist and cool. A good mulch can be achieved by placing shredded bark, grass clippings or even newspapers around the base of the stem to keep the weeds down.



Bealach eile le buinneáin bheaga a chur is ea lá a bhrú san ithir, borradh a chur faoi ar a chúl agus é a bhaint amach, agus scoilt á fágáil san ithir a choinneoidh na fréamhacha. Cuir fréamhacha an bhuinneáin sa scoilt agus daingnigh an ithir timpeall an phlanda le sáil do choise leis an bpoll a shéalú. Ní mholtar crainn a chur faoi bháisteach throm, faoi ghaoth láidir nó faoi shioc.

Fásann crainn níos fearr gan stacáin. I gcás crann ard (>2 m ar airde), áfach, teastóidh stacán agus ceangal uathu go dtí go mbeidh na fréamhacha deabhunaithe. Daingnigh an stacán sa pholl plandaithe roimh chur (tar éis duit an crann a chur ina áit go sealadach) ionas nach ndéanfar aon damáiste do na fréamhacha. Nuair a bhíonn an crann curtha agat, ceangail an stacán den tamhan le ceangal crainn. Go hiondúil ní theastaíonn ach stacán atá thart ar aon triain d'airde an chrainn d'fhormhór na gcrann (uaireanta teastaíonn stacán dúbailte le haghaidh crann an-ard agus/nó in áiteanna sceirdiúla). Is é cuspóir an stacáin cuidiú le daingniú na bhfréamhacha, agus ní tacaíocht a thabhairt don tamhan crainn. Ba chóir go mbeadh tú in ann an stacán a bhaint go hiomlán laistigh de dhá bhliain nó trí bliana i ndiaidh cuir.

Toradh rathúil a chinntiú

Má tá airgead caite agat ar chur roinnt crann, nach fiú duit aire a thabhairt dóibh! Is beag an iarracht a theastaíonn ach mura bhfaigheann siad beagán iarchúram, plúchtar go leor crann le fiaile, tachtar le ceangail stacáin iad nó scortar le struimeálaithe iad agus teipeann orthu barr a gcumas a bhaint amach, rud a chuirfeadh díomá ort sa deireadh.

Cúpla leid don iarchúram crainn:

- Coinnigh súil ar chrainn óga le linn na chéad seachtainí i ndiaidh a gcuir. Brúigh síos an ithir ina dtimpeall más gá, go háirithe i ndiaidh aimsire gaofaire ar eagla go mbeadh na fréamhacha scaoilte nó go séidfí na crainn as an talamh.
- In aimsir thirim, ba cheart duit crainn nuachurtha a uisciú mar b'fhéidir nach mbeadh a bhfréamhchóras sách forbartha fós. Tá tábhacht ar leith ag baint le huisciú a dhéanamh díreach i ndiaidh crainn a chur agus ar feadh an chéad séasúir fáis freisin (i.e. ó earrach go fómhar).
- Le linn na chéad bhlianta caithfidh crainn óga dul i gcomórtas le féar agus fiaile ag lorg cothaitheach agus uisce. Tabhair cabhair dóibh agus coinneáil an t-achar timpeall an chrainn saor ó fhiaile. Is rud ríthábhachtach é seo do chrainn bheaga. Bealach simplí éifeachtach le fiaile a smachtú agus dromchla na talún a choimeád tais agus fionnuar ag an am céanna is ea clúdach móta a chur timpeall crann. Is féidir móta maith a dhéanamh as sliseanna coirte, bearrthaí féir nó nuachtáin fiú, agus an móta a chur thart ar bhun an tamhain le fiaile a smachtú.



Only large trees (>2m) need to be staked after planting / Ní theastaíonn stacán ach ó chrainn arda (>2 m)



- If your tree is supported with a stake, don't forget to loosen the tie as the girth of the tree expands otherwise your tree will be strangled and won't reach its full potential.
- Be careful when using tools around trees, especially with trimmers and lawnmowers. Cutting or slashing the bark can lead to tree death.

A Word on Ivy

Ivy is one of our few native broad-leaved evergreen shrubs. A climber, ivy is a native woodland plant and is commonly seen in native woods and hedgerows, and scrambling over stone walls. Contrary to popular belief, ivy does not strangle or parasitise trees. It merely uses them as a prop to get higher into the canopy. Ivy generally isn't a problem for a tree unless the growth of ivy gets too top-heavy and could act as a sail in a high wind. Generally, ivy manages to dominate only trees or shrubs that are failing to thrive and losing vigour anyway, perhaps due to old age or unfavourable environmental conditions. Ivy is wonderful for wildlife because it is a source of food through the winter. It flowers late, providing an invaluable source of pollen for insects. Ivy cover on trees also provides invaluable shelter for birds and small mammals in winter.



- Má tá taca ceangailte le do chrann, ná dearmad an ceangal a scaoileadh de réir mar a mhéadaíonn timpeall an chrainn nó tachtfar é agus ní bhainfear barr a chumas amach.
- Bí cúramach agus tú ag baint úsáide as uirlisí garraíodóireachta timpeall crann, go háirithe struimeálaithe agus lomairí faiche. D'fhéadfadh crann bás a fháil de thoradh gearradh nó scoradh coirte.

Focal faoin Eidhneán

Tá an teidhneán ar cheann den bheagán tom leathanduilleach síorghlas dúchasach atá againn. Dreapaire atá ann agus planda dúchasach coillearnaí a fheictear go coitianta i gcoillte agus i bhfálta sreach dúchasacha, agus é dreaptha thar bhallaí cloiche freisin. Murab ionann agus an tuairim choitianta, ní dhéanann an teidhneán crainn a thachtadh ná a sheadánú. Níl ann ach go mbaineann sé úsáid astu mar thaca le dul níos airde sa cheannbhrat. De ghnáth, ní chruthaíonn an teidhneán aon fhadhb do chrann ach amháin má fhásann sé róthrom ar a bharr agus má ghníomhaíonn sé mar sheol crochta i ngaoth láidir. Go hiondúil, ní ghabhann an teidhneán ceannas ach ar chrainn nó ar thiom atá i mbun teipthe agus ag éirí lag ar aon nós, b'fhéidir de bharr seanaoise nó cúinsí timpeallachta mífhabhracha. Planda iontach don fhiadhúlra is ea an teidhneán, ar foinse bia é i rith an gheimhridh. Tagann bláthú déanach air, rud a chuireann foinse pailine an-tábhachtach ar fáil d'fheithidí. Chomh maith leis sin tugann cumhdach an eidhneáin ar chrainn foscadh ríthábhachtach d'éin agus do mhamaigh bheaga sa gheimhreadh.

GARDEN DESIGN AND CARING FOR TREES



Picnic area in Coole Park / Láthair phicnicí i bPáirc na Cúile



Rinville Park / Páirc Rinn Mhíl

Designing with trees

Trees can make a beautiful addition to any garden, adding colour, texture and structure. Trees keep us in touch with nature's calendar as they change with the seasons. Trees also have many other benefits such as providing shelter and screening, bringing us closer to nature and wildlife, and when their work is done, giving us some timber.

Once you've bought your trees and are ready to plant, another thing to consider is the garden design or landscaping scheme. Design isn't a huge issue if you're only planting one tree but worth having a think about if planting a few trees as they are a long-term investment. When incorporating trees and shrubs into the design of a garden, public green space, housing estate etc., there are many attractive features to work with: the shape or form of the tree, colour of the foliage (which might change during the seasons) and texture, colour and pattern of the bark, flowers and fruits, whether the tree is deciduous (loses its leaves in winter) or evergreen etc.

Planting with native trees and shrubs provides the opportunity to create a more natural look to your garden or green space, but native trees can also be planted effectively in formal designs if you prefer.

DEARADH GAIRDÍN AGUS CÚRAM CRANN

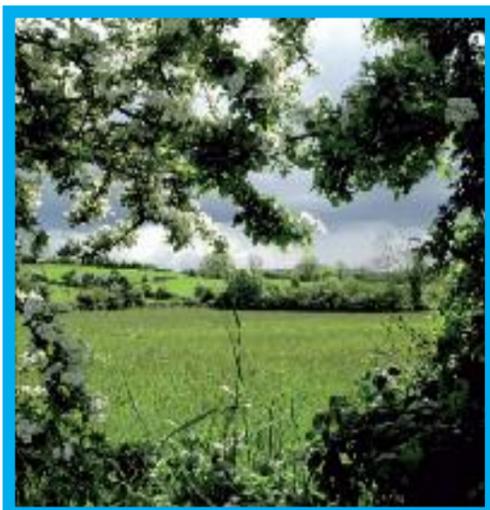
Dearadh le crainn

Cuireann crainn go mór le gairdín ar bith, lena ndath, a n-uigeacht agus a struchtúr. Coinníonn crainn i dteagmháil muid le féilire an dúlra de réir mar a athraíonn siad leis na séasúir. Tá go leor buntáistí eile ag baint le crainn, mar shampla foscadh agus sciathadh a sholáthar, muid a thabhairt níos gaire don nádúr agus don fhiadhúlra, agus nuair atá a saol caite, adhmaid a thabhairt dúinn.

Nuair atá do chrainn ceannaithe agat agus tú réidh len iad a chur, rud eile le cuimhneamh air is ea dearadh an ghairdín nó an scéim tírdhreachaithe. Ní ceist mhór an dearadh mura bhfuil ach crann amháin á chur agat, ach is fiú smaoineamh air má tá roinnt crann á gcur, tharla gur infheistíocht fhadtéarma atá iontu. Nuair atá crainn agus toim á gcuimsiú i ndearadh gairdín, spáis ghlasa phoiblí, eastáit títhíochta, etc., tá go leor gnéithe tarraingteacha le hoibriú leo: cruth nó cuma an chrainn, dath an duilliúir (a d'fhéadfadh athrú i rith na séasúir) agus uigeacht, dath agus patrún na coirte, na mbláthanna agus na dtorthaí, agus an crann a bheith duillsilteach (cailleann a dhuillí sa gheimhreadh) nó síorghlas.

Tugtar deis cuma níos nádúrtha a chur ar do ghairdín nó do spás glas nuair a chuirtear crainn agus toim dhúchasacha, ach is féidir crainn dhúchasacha a chur le héifeacht freisin i ndearaí foirmiúla más fearr leat.





Hawthorn / Sceach Gheal

Very often trees are planted in unimaginative rows or as a few isolated specimens. Planting in regularly spaced straight lines should be avoided, unless formality is meant to be a feature of the design (or along avenues and boundaries). Trees like company! Planting trees and shrubs in groups is often more effective and attractive than planting isolated trees, which can take many years to achieve an impact. When planted in groups, trees protect each other by forming their own micro-environment, which improves growth. A more natural effect is achieved if odd numbers of trees are planted in irregularly spaced groups.

Groups of trees and shrubs can be placed strategically to break up a large garden, providing privacy, screening and/or shelter. Trees and shrubs can be also planted as a bank to intercept the prevailing wind.

Groups of the same species often look good together. For example, groups of Guelder Rose, Rowan, Hazel or Birch work well in small to medium-sized gardens; in a bigger space, stands of Oak, Scots Pine or Whitebeam can be very effective.

Alternatively a collection of species with different sizes, shapes and colours can look great when planted together in a group. For example, mixes of Rowan, Holly, Hazel, Crab Apple, Guelder Rose and Birch are suitable for relatively small spaces. Wild cherry, Oak, Scots Pine, Whitebeam, Elm and Ash can also be included if planting a larger area. There is usually enough space in the smallest of gardens for a cluster of small trees and shrubs such as Holly (which is very slow growing), Guelder Rose, Juniper and/or Rowan.

If you dream of a low maintenance garden, planting a mix of trees, smaller trees, shrubs and low growing shrubs together to mimic a mini-natural woodland can be very effective and visually appealing. There is no need to mow the



Go han-mhínic cuirtear crainn i sraitheanna leamha nó mar roinnt bheag eiseamal scoite. Níor cheart crainn a chur i línte díreacha agus achar áirithe eatarthu, mura bhfuiltear ag iarraidh go mbeadh an fhoirmeáltacht ina gné den dearadh (nó ag cur ar feadh ascaillí agus teorainneacha). Is maith le crainn comhlúadar! Is minic gur éifeachtúla agus tarraingtí crainn agus toim a chur i ngrúpaí, seachas iad a chur ina n-aonair, rud a d'fhéadfadh na blianta fada a thógáil chun tionchar a bheith aige. Nuair a chuirtear i ngrúpaí iad, tugann crainn cosaint dá chéile trína micrithimpeallacht féin a chruthú, rud a chuidíonn le fás. Cruthaítear cuma níos nádúrtha má chuirtear méid corr crann i ngrúpaí a bhfuil achair neamhrialta eatarthu.

Is féidir grúpaí crann agus tom a shuí go straitéiseach chun gairdín mór a roinnt, rud a dhéanfaidh cúlraid, sciathadh agus/nó foscadh. Is féidir crainn agus toim a chur mar bhruach chun foscadh a thabhairt ón ngnáthghaoth.

Is minic go mbíonn dea-chuma ar ghrúpaí den speiceas céanna le chéile. Mar shampla, bíonn dreach maith ar ghrúpaí caor con, caorthann, coll nó beitheanna i ngairdíní beaga nó meánmhéide; in achar níos mó, bíonn éifeacht le clampaí darach, péine Albanaí nó fionnchoill.

Ach d'fhéadfadh dreach maith a bheith ar bhailiúchán speiceas de mhéideanna, cruthanna agus dathanna éagsúla agus iad curtha le chéile i ngrúpa. Mar shampla, tá meascáin de chaorthann, cuileann, coll, fia-úll, caor chon agus beith oiriúnach in achair atá sách beag. D'fhéadfaí silín fiáin, dair, péine Albanach, fionncholl, leamhán agus fuinseog a chur san áireamh agus achar níos mó á chur. De ghnáth bíonn dóthain spáis sa ghairdín is lú le haghaidh braisle crann agus tom beag, leithéidí an chuilinn (a fhásann go mall), na caoire con, an aiteil agus/nó an chaorthainn.



Gorse / Aiteann



Wild Garlic and Lesser Celandine, woodland flowers / An Creamh agus An Grán Arcáin, bláthanna coillearnaí

grass around the trees as the smaller shrubs will keep the grass and weeds down. If you are patient, beautiful woodland herbs such as Primrose, Lords and Ladies, Bluebells or Wild Garlic might start to appear in the woodland habitat that you have created (which will also be very attractive to wildlife).

Just make sure that the species you are thinking of planting together like similar conditions (soil, shade, exposure etc.) and are suitable for your particular site. In order to produce a scheme which will be effective throughout the year, it is worthwhile to consider the seasonal variations of trees.

Trees and shrubs can also be planted as individuals to form a focal point (e.g. a majestic Oak) or fill a small space (e.g. Holly, Hazel or Rowan).

In many cases the purpose of tree planting efforts is to screen a large or ugly structure, improve the appearance of industrial buildings and/or provide shelter. Fast-growing non-native conifers were widely used in the past but effective and much more attractive screening can be achieved using a mix of native species. Trees with fast growth rates (e.g. Alder) can be used to achieve a screen as quickly as possible, but a mix of other species of a range of sizes, texture and colour should also be employed to ensure the planting is attractive all year round and provides adequate screening (e.g. Scots Pine, Birch, Hazel, Holly). Mixed species planting will also have greater benefits for wildlife.

Finally, when developing a new site try to make the most of the existing features and retain mature trees, shrubs, and native hedgerow. They will add a sense of maturity to the development, save money on landscaping costs and provide enormous benefits to wildlife. Existing vegetation can be complemented by new planting to create a very attractive, mature garden or green space.

Más gairdín ar bheagán cothabhála is mian leat, is an-éifeachtúil agus an-tarraingteach an rud é meascán crann, crann beag, tom agus tom a fhásann íseal ar an talamh a chur, chun cuma mhionchoillearnaí nádúrtha a chur air. Níl aon ghá an féar a lomadh thart timpeall ar na crainn mar go gcoinneoidh na toim bheaga an féar agus an fhiaile faoi chois. Má tá foighne agat, b'fhéidir go bhfeicfeá lusanna mar na sabhaircíní, na cluasa caoine, na coinnle corra nó an creamh ag teacht chun cinn sa choillearnach atá cruthaithe agat (a mbeidh an-tóir ag an bhfiadhúlra air chomh maith).

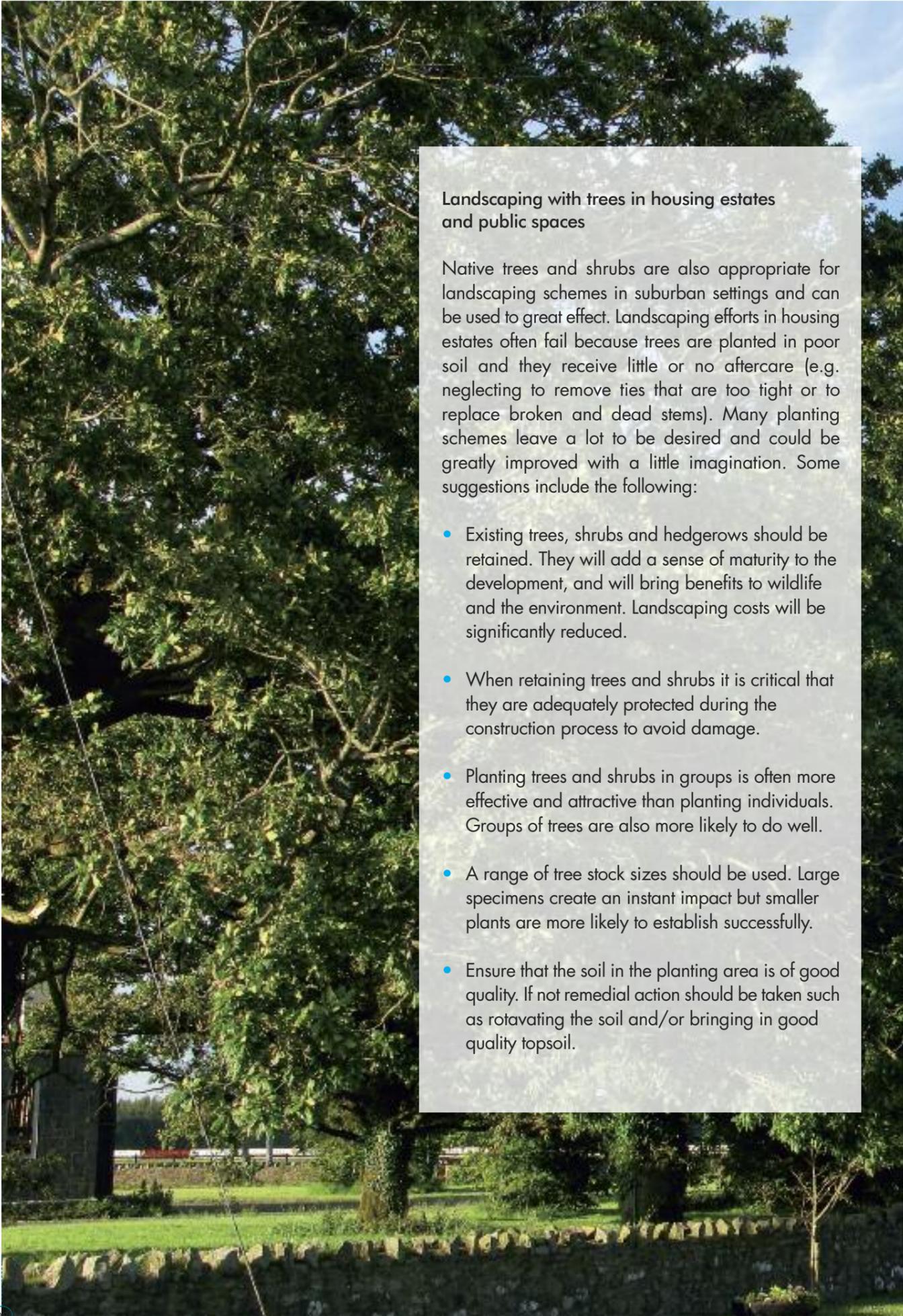
Níl le déanamh agat ach a chinntiú go dtaitníonn na dálaí céanna (ithir, scáth, nochtadh, etc.) leis na speicis atá i gceist agat a chur le chéile agus go bhfuil siad oiriúnach don suíomh áirithe atá agat. Chun scéim a mbeidh éifeacht leis ar feadh na bliana a chruthú, is fiú smaoineamh ar athruithe séasúracha na gcrann.

Is féidir crainn agus toim a chur mar aonáin chun aird a tharraingt orthu (e.g. dair mhórga) nó chun achar beag a líonadh (e.g. cuileann, coll nó caorthann).

I gcásanna go leor, is é is cuspóir le crainn a chur struchtúr mór nó gránna a cheilt, feabhas a chur ar dhreach foirgneamh tionsclaíochta agus/nó foscadh a sholáthar. D'úsáidí crainn bhuaircíneacha andúchasacha mhearfháis go forleathan san am atá caite ach is féidir sciathadh éifeachtúil i bhfad níos tarraingí a bhaint amach le meascán de speicis dhúchasacha. Is féidir crainn a fhásann go mear (e.g. an fhearnóg) a úsáid le scáth a dhéanamh chomh tapa agus is féidir, ach ba cheart meascán de speicis eile le raon méideanna, uigeachta agus dathanna a úsáid lena chinntiú go mbíonn na plandaí a chuirtear tarraingteach ar feadh na bliana agus go gcruthaíonn siad scáth sách maith (e.g. péine Albanach, beith, coll, cuileann). Beidh tairbhe níos fearr don fhiadhúlra ó speicis éagsúla a chur.

Ar deireadh, agus suíomh nua á fhorbairt agat, déan iarracht an tairbhe is fearr a bhaint as na gnéithe atá ann cheana agus crainn aibí, toim agus fála sceach dúchasacha a choimeád. Cuirfidh siad le cuma lánfhásta na forbartha, sábhálfaidh siad ar chostas an tírdhrechtaithe agus beidh siad an-tairbheach don fhiadhúlra. Is féidir an fásra atá ann cheana a chomhlánú le hathchur chun gairdín nó achar glas lánfhásta, tarraingteach a chruthú.





Landscaping with trees in housing estates and public spaces

Native trees and shrubs are also appropriate for landscaping schemes in suburban settings and can be used to great effect. Landscaping efforts in housing estates often fail because trees are planted in poor soil and they receive little or no aftercare (e.g. neglecting to remove ties that are too tight or to replace broken and dead stems). Many planting schemes leave a lot to be desired and could be greatly improved with a little imagination. Some suggestions include the following:

- Existing trees, shrubs and hedgerows should be retained. They will add a sense of maturity to the development, and will bring benefits to wildlife and the environment. Landscaping costs will be significantly reduced.
- When retaining trees and shrubs it is critical that they are adequately protected during the construction process to avoid damage.
- Planting trees and shrubs in groups is often more effective and attractive than planting individuals. Groups of trees are also more likely to do well.
- A range of tree stock sizes should be used. Large specimens create an instant impact but smaller plants are more likely to establish successfully.
- Ensure that the soil in the planting area is of good quality. If not remedial action should be taken such as rotavating the soil and/or bringing in good quality topsoil.

Tírdhrechtú le crainn in eastáit tithíochta agus i spáis phoiblí

Tá crainn agus toim dhúchasacha oiriúnach le haghaidh scéimeanna tírdhrechtaithe i suíomhanna fo-uirbeacha agus an-dealramh orthu dá réir. Is minic a theipeann ar iarrachtaí tírdhrechtaithe in eastáit tithíochta mar go gcuirtear crainn in ithreacha bochta agus gur beag an aire a fhaigheann siad ina dhiaidh sin (e.g. dearmad á dhéanamh iallacha a bhaint atá ró-dhaingean nó gais bhriste agus mharbha a ionadú). Bíonn cuid mhaith scéimeanna cuir nach mbíonn thar moladh beirte agus a bhféadfaí iad a fheabhsú go mór le beagán samhlaíochta. I measc na moltaí tá siad seo a leanas:

- Ba cheart crainn, toim agus fáлта sceach atá ann cheana a choimeád. Cuirfidh siad le cuma lánfhásta na forbartha, agus beidh siad tairbheach don fhiadhúlra agus don timpeallacht. Laghdófar go suntasach ar chostas an tírdhrechtaithe.
- Nuair atá crainn agus toim á gcoimeád tá sé an-tábhachtach go dtugtar a ndóthain cosanta dóibh le linn na tógála chun damáiste a sheachaint.
- Is minic gur éifeachtúla agus tarraingtí crainn agus toim a chur i ngrúpaí seachas ina n-aonáin. Is mó an seans go rathóidh grúpaí crann.
- Ba cheart raon méideanna de stoc crainn a úsáid. Bíonn tionchar lom láithreach ag eiseamail mhóra ach is mó an seans go mbunóidh plandaí beaga go rathúil.
- Déan cinnte de go bhfuil an ithir san achar cuir ar chaighdeán maith. Mura bhfuil, ba cheart tabhairt faoi bheart feabhais, mar shampla an ithir a rôtachartadh agus/nó barrithir ardchaighdeáin a thabhairt isteach.



Housing estate near Bearn Woods / Eastát tithíochta gar do Choill Bhearna

Caring for existing trees and shrubs in new developments

Mature trees and shrubs greatly improve the appearance of new houses, adding a sense of maturity to the site, and providing privacy and shelter. However, efforts to retain existing trees on development sites often fail because the trees are not protected adequately during the construction process. The crown and trunk of the tree may be intact but the roots may have been damaged, which can lead to a loss of vigour, die-back and in some cases, premature death of the tree. Few people realize that the most vulnerable part of a tree is actually its root system. Tree roots are usually ignored because they are underground and therefore not visible. The effects of damage to roots may only become evident several years later and may have serious consequences for the tree. The roots of a mature tree mostly spread outwards (not downwards!) to at least the full extent of the crown and often beyond.

Certain activities must be avoided within the rooting area of a tree to avoid damage:

Do not

- Drive over the roots of trees/shrubs compacting the soil
- Raise or lower the soil level around trees
- Cover the rooting area with tarmac or other impervious materials
- Change the water table
- Excavate in the rooting area
- Deposit toxic materials around trees
- Damage the bark or branches of trees
- Light fires close to trees
- Store materials under trees

Do

- Erect robust fencing around any trees and shrubs to be retained

Cúram na gcrann agus na dtom atá ann cheana i bhforbairtí nua

Cuireann crainn agus toim lánfhásta go mór le dreach tithe nua agus cuma aibí ar an suíomh agus cuireann siad príobháid agus foscadh ar fáil. Ach teipeann ar iarrachtaí crainn atá cheana ar shuíomhanna forbartha a choimeád mar nach gcosnaítear na crainn a dhóthain le linn na tógála. D'fhéadfadh barr agus tamhan an chrainn a bheith slán ach dochar a bheith déanta do na fréamhacha, agus is féidir easpa spreachtha, críonadh siar agus, i gcásanna áirithe, bás roimh am, a bheith mar thoradh air sin.

Is beag duine a thuigeann gurb é fréamhchóras an chrainn an chuid is leochailí de. Déantar neamhaird de ghnáth de fhréamhacha crainn mar go bhfuil siad faoin talamh agus dá bhrí sin as amharc. D'fhéadfadh sé nach dtabharfaí suntas do thionchar an damáiste do na fréamhacha go ceann roinnt blianta ina dhiaidh sin agus go mbeadh an crann thíos leis go mór. Scaipeann fréamhacha crainn aibí amach (ní síos!), den chuid is mó, go dtí achar iomlán bharr an chrainn agus fiú thar sin.

Ní mór gníomhaíochtaí áirithe a sheachaint taobh istigh d'achar fréamhaithe crainn chun damáiste a sheachaint:

Ná déan aon cheann díobh seo:

- Tiomáint thar fréamhacha crann/tom, agus an ithir a bhalcadh
- Leibhéal na hithreach timpeall ar chrainn a ardú nó a ísliú
- An t-achar fréamhaithe a chlúdach le tarmac nó le hábhair neamh-thréscaoilteacha eile
- An maoschlár a athrú
- An t-achar fréamhaithe a thochailt
- Ábhair nimhiúla a shil-leagan timpeall ar chrainn
- Dochar a dhéanamh do choirn nó de chraobhacha crann
- Tinte a lasadh gar do chrainn
- Ábhair a stóráil faoi chrainn

Déan

- Fál láidir a chur suas timpeall ar chrainn nó tom ar bith atá le coimeád



red squirrel in merlin woods
iora rua i gcoill Mhuirlinne (Colin Stanley)





Storing materials under trees will damage the roots / Déanfaidh stóráil ábhar faoi chrainn dochar do na fréamhacha.

A tree protection area should be established around each tree or group of trees by erecting an immovable barrier prior to any development of the site. The protected area should be large enough to provide sufficient protection for the tree rooting zone. Usually at least the area encompassing the crown of the tree (i.e. the spread of the branches) should be included and an area much wider than the crown for tall trees with short branches, for example Scots pine.

This area must be clearly signed and should not be moved for the duration of the development. Robust fencing at least 1.2m high should be used for the barrier. Make sure construction workers are fully aware of which trees and shrubs are to be retained so that the trees are adequately protected at all times.

When retaining a hedgerow as a boundary feature or as a feature within a large housing development, the same principle applies in order to protect the component trees and shrubs. The hedgerow should be fenced off effectively for the duration of the development works. Expert advice should be sought for large developments that impact on trees and for sites of high conservation value.

Ba cheart achar cosanta crainn a bhunú timpeall gach aon chrann nó grúpa crann trí bhacainn dho-aistrithe a chur suas sula ndéantar aon fhorbairt ar an suíomh. Ba cheart go mbeadh an t-achar cosanta sách fairsing chun dóthain cosanta a sholáthar d'achar fréamhaithe an chrainn. De ghnáth ba cheart an t-achar a chuimsíonn barr an chrainn (i.e. leathadh na gcráobhacha) a chur san áireamh agus achar i bhfad níos leithne ná barr an chrainn i gcás crann ard le cráobhacha giortacha, an péine Albanach, mar shampla.

Ba cheart an t-achar sin a fhógairt go soiléir agus gan é a athrú i gcaitheamh na forbartha. Ba cheart fál láidir ar a laghad 1.2 m ar airde a úsáid le haghaidh na bacainne. Bí cinnte de go mbeidh na tógálaithe ar an eolas maidir leis na crainn agus na toim atá á gcoimeád sa chaoi go mbeidh cosaint go leor ag na crainn ar feadh an ama.

Nuair atá fál sceach á choimeád mar ghné den teorainn nó mar ghné eile taobh istigh d'fhorbairt mhór tiithíochta, ba cheart an prionsabal céanna a chur i bhfeidhm chun na crainn agus na toim chomhpháirte a chosaint. Ba cheart fál a chur thart timpeall ar an bhfál sceach ar feadh thréimhse na n-oibreacha forbartha. Ba cheart sainchomhairle a lorg i gcás forbairtí móra a mbeadh tionchar acu ar chrainn agus i gcás suíomhanna a bhfuil luach ard caomhantais ag baint leo.



Coal Tit / Meantán dubh (Colin Stanley)



THE FINAL WORD ON TREES

Let's rekindle our tree culture in Galway by planting more native trees, protecting our wonderful native woodlands, and using our native tree resource wisely. Trees and woods provide huge benefits for the environment, wildlife and society. Tree cover in the County is still relatively low so we need to get planting if we want to be able to utilise this renewable resource at the rate we are currently exploiting trees for firewood. Hopefully this book will have inspired you to consider going native when planting trees and think natural when landscaping with trees. Plant the right tree in the right place and you will be rewarded with a fine healthy tree in years to come. Protect our native tree and woodland resource for future generations to utilise and enjoy.

AN FOCAL DEIRIDH FAOI CHRINN

Déanaimis cultúr ár gcrann i nGaillimh a athbheochan trí níos mó crann dúchasach a chur, ár gcoillearnacha iontacha dúchasacha a chosaint agus leas críonna a bhaint as acmhainn ár gcrann dúchasach. Is an-mhór an tairbhe iad crainn agus coillte don chomhshaol, don fhiadhúlra agus don tsochaí. Tá an brat crann sa chontae sách íseal, mar sin ní mór dúinn tabhairt faoin gcur má táimid ag iarraidh leas a bhaint as an acmhainn in-athnuaite seo ag an ráta a bhfuilimid ag baint sochair as na crainn mar adhmaid tine. Táthar ag súil gur spreag an leabhar seo tú le smaoineamh ar do dhúchas agus crainn á gcur agat, agus ar an nádúr agus tírdhreachtú le crainn á dhéanamh agat. Cuir an crann ceart san áit cheart agus beidh luach do shaothair agat le crann breá folláin sna blianta amach romhat. Cosain ár n-acmhainn crann agus coillearnaí le haghaidh úsáid agus taitneamh na nglún atá le teacht.

USEFUL WEBSITES AND FURTHER READING

General information

Galway County Biodiversity Project	www.galwaycountybiodiversity.com
Galway County Council	www.galway.ie
Forest Service	www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/

Landowners and householders

Hedgerows in Galway	www.galway.ie/en/Services/Heritage/NaturalHeritage/Hedgerows/Hedgerow%20of%20Galway.pdf
Trees, forestry and farming	www.teagascenvironment.ie
Tree and woodland planting, and conservation	www.crann.ie
Forestry research	www.coford.ie
Native woodland conservation	www.nativewoodlandtrust.ie
Native woodland planting and conservation	www.woodlandsofireland.com
Commercial forestry and amenity woodland	www.coillte.ie
Native varieties of fruit trees	www.irishseedsavers.ie
Native woodland research	www.npws.ie/researchprojects/woodlands/

Schools

Information on trees for schools	www.treecouncil.ie ; www.treeday.ie
Green Schools environmental programme	www.greenschoolsireland.org
Tree activities	http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk/packs/trees.htm



SUÍOMHANNA GRÉASÁIN ÚSÁIDEACHA AGUS LÉAMH BREISE

Eolas ginearálta

Tionscadal Bithéagsúlachta Chontae na Gaillimhe	www.galwaycountybiodiversity.com
Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe	www.galway.ie
An tSeirbhís Foraoiseachta	www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/

Úinéirí talaimh agus sealbhóirí tí

Fálta sceach i nGaillimh	www.galway.ie/en/Services/Heritage/NaturalHeritage/Hedgerows/Hedgerow%20of%20Galway.pdf
Crainn, foraoiseacht agus feirmeoireacht	www.teagascenvironment.ie
Cur crann agus coillearnaí, agus caomhnú	www.crann.ie
Taighde foraoiseachta	www.coford.ie
Caomhnú coillearnaí dúchasaí	www.nativewoodlandtrust.ie
Cur agus caomhnú coillearnaí dúchasaí	www.woodlandsofireland.com
Foraoiseacht tráchtála agus coillearnacha conláiste	www.coillte.ie
Cineálacha dúchasacha crann torthaí	www.irishseedsavers.ie
Taighde ar choillearnacha dúchasacha	www.npws.ie/researchprojects/woodlands/

Scoileanna

Eolas ar chrainn do scoileanna	www.treecouncil.ie ; www.treeday.ie
Clár comhshaoil na Scoileanna Glasa	www.greenschoolsireland.org
Gníomhaíochtaí le crainn	www.naturedetectives.org.uk/packs/trees.htm



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APPENDIX 1: TREES AND THE LAW

Tree felling licence

Under the 1946 Forestry Act it is illegal to uproot or cut down any tree over 10 years of age without receiving (OR being in possession of) a felling licence. While there are some exceptions to this act, advice should be sought prior to cutting down any mature trees. Contact the Forest Service for more information. An application form for a tree felling license can be obtained from your local Garda station.

Tree Preservation Orders

Another legal mechanism to protect trees, under Irish planning legislation, is to make a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Planning permission is required to fell a tree with a TPO and the decision can be appealed to An Bord Pleanála. A TPO can be made on a single tree, group of trees or woodland. Tree Preservation Orders are granted to protect trees of special amenity value and ecological value is not considered. There are no TPOs in Galway but a Significant Tree Survey was conducted for the east of the county to identify important trees (www.galway.ie/gis/gmaps).

Galway County Development Plan and Local Area Plans

These plans include objectives and policies that aim to protect important trees, groups of trees, woodland and hedgerows in the county.

AGUISÍN 1: CRAINN AGUS AN DLÍ

Ceadúnas leagtha crann

Faoin Acht Foraoiseachta 1946 tá sé in aghaidh an dlí crann ar bith os cionn 10 mbliana d'aois a dhífhreamhú nó a ghearradh anuas gan cheadúnas leagtha. Cé go bhfuil eisceachtaí ón acht seo ann, ba cheart comhairle a fháil sular ngearrtar síos aon chrann aibí. Déan teagmháil leis an tSeirbhís Foraoiseachta chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil. Is féidir foirm iarratais ar cheadúnas leagtha a fháil ó stáisiún áitiúil an Gharda Síochána.

Orduithe Caomhnaithe Crann

Is bealach eile dlíthiúil chun crainn a chaomhnú, faoi reachtaíocht na hÉireann, Ordú Caomhnaithe Crann (OCC) a dhéanamh. Ní mór cead pleanála a fháil chun crann a bhfuil OCC air a leagan agus is féidir achomharc a dhéanamh chuig An mBord Pleanála faoin gcinneadh. Is féidir OCC a dhéanamh maidir le crann singil, grúpa crann nó coillearnach. Deonaítear Orduithe Caomhnaithe Crann chun crainn a bhfuil luach taitneamhachta speisialta orthu a chosaint agus ní chuirtear luach éiceolaíochta san áireamh. Níl aon OCC i nGaillimh ach cuireadh suirbhé ar chrainn shuntasacha ar bun in oirthear an chontae chun crainn thábhachtacha a aithint (www.galway.ie/gis/gmaps).

Plean Forbartha Chontae na Gaillimhe agus Pleananna Ceantair Áitiúil

Cuimsítear cuspóirí agus beartais sna pleananna seo a bhfuil sé mar aidhm acu crainn thábhachtacha, grúpaí crann, coillearnacha agus fála sreach sa chontae a chosaint.

Hedgerow cutting

The best time to cut hedgerows is in winter when the plants are dormant and the bird-nesting season is over. Hedges provide the ideal nesting habitat for many of our countryside birds. In spring and summer hedgerows are bustling with activity as a myriad of wildlife utilise hedges because of the wide range of food and shelter that hedges provide.

The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 actually does not allow the cutting of hedgerows during the critical bird-nesting period in spring and summer (1st March to 31st August) because of the devastating impact on nesting birds and other wildlife. Hedges have little other legislative protection and therefore it is important that the hedge cutting restrictions are adhered to as hedgerows are such an incredibly important resource for wildlife. Contact your local conservation ranger if you have concerns about hedgerow cutting, especially mechanical cutting, in your area.

Nature conservation designations

The main mechanism for protecting native woodlands in Ireland is nature conservation designation. The main designations include Natural Heritage Areas (NHA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), National Parks and National Nature Reserves. In Galway there are several Special Areas of Conservation and National Nature Reserves that include woodland habitats (Appendix 2).

Special Areas of Conservation

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are our premier sites designated for nature conservation. They are considered to be sites of high conservation value in a European context and are designated on the basis of the habitats and species they contain. The legal basis for selecting and designating SACs is the European Union Habitats Directive, transposed into Irish Law under the European Union (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 (National Parks and Wildlife Service website). The Directive lists certain habitats (including some woodland habitats such as Sessile Oak- Holly woodland) a representative sample of which must be protected within SACs. SACs in Galway that contain woodland are listed in Appendix 2.

Bearradh Fálta Sceach

Is é an geimhreadh an t-am is fearr le fálta sceach a bhearradh, nuair a bhíonn na plandaí suanach agus séasúr neadaithe na n-éan caite. Is gnáthóg neadaithe den scoth do chuid mhaith dár n-éin na fálta sceach. San earrach agus sa samhradh bíonn fuadar sna fálta sceach agus fiadhúlra as cuimse ag baint úsáide astu mar gheall ar an raon leathan bia agus foscaidh a bhíonn á sholáthar acu.

Ní cheadaítear bearradh fálta sceach le linn na tréimhse tábhachtaí neadaithe san earrach agus sa samhradh (1 Márta go 31 Lúnasa) faoin Acht um Fhiadhúlra (Leasú), 2000, mar gheall ar an díobháil threascrach a dhéanfaí ar an éanlaith neadaithe agus ar fhiadhúlra eile. Is beag eile cosaint reachtaíochta atá ag fálta agus dá bhri sin tá sé tábhachtach go gcloífí leis na srianta bearrtha mar gur acmhainn ríthábhachtach don fhiadhúlra atá sna fálta sceach. Déan teagmháil le do mhaor caomhantais áitiúil má tá ceisteanna agat faoi bhearradh fáil i do cheantar, go háirithe más bearradh meicniúil atá i gceist.

Ainmniúcháin chaomhantais dúlra

Is é an t-ainmniúchán caomhantais dúlra an príomh-mhodh chun coillearnacha a chosaint in Éirinn. I measc na bpríomhainmniúchán tá an Limistéar Oidhreacht Nádúrtha (LON), an Limistéar Caomhantais Speisialta (LCS), an Pháirc Náisiúnta agus an Anaclann Dúlra Náisiúnta. I nGaillimh tá roinnt Limistéar Caomhantais Speisialta agus Anaclann Dúlra Náisiúnta, a bhfuil gnáthóga coillearnaí ina measc (Aguisín 2).

Limistéir Chaomhantais Speisialta

Is iad na Limistéir Chaomhantais Speisialta ár bpríomhláithreacha ainmnithe i gcomhair chaomhnú an dúlra. Meastar iad a bheith ina láithreacha caomhantais ar ardluach i gcomhthéacs na hEorpa agus ainmníodh iad ar bhonn na ngnáthóg agus na speiceas atá iontu. Is é Treoir an Aontais Eorpaigh maidir le Gnáthóga atá mar bhonn le roghnú agus ainmiú LCSanna, agus tá sé trasuite i nDlí na hÉireann faoi Rialacháin an Aontais Eorpaigh (Gnáthóga Nádúrtha) 1997 (súiomh gréasáin na Seirbhíse Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra). Liostaítear gnáthóga áirithe sa Treoir (agus roinnt gnáthóg coillearnaí, amhail an choillearnach darach gaelaí – cuilinn, ina measc) ar cheart eiseamláir ionadaíoch díobh a chosaint istigh in LCSanna. Tá liosta de na LCSanna i nGaillimh a bhfuil coillearnacha iontu in Aguisín 2.

APPENDIX 2: PROTECTED WOODLANDS IN GALWAY

(www.npws.ie)

Special Areas of Conservation

Coole-Garryland Complex
Derrycrag Wood Nature Reserve
Pollnaknockaun Wood Nature Reserve
Rosturra Wood
Gortnacarnaun Wood
Drummin Wood
Ross Lake and Woods

Nature Reserves

Ballynastaig Wood Nature Reserve
Coole Park and Garryland Nature Reserves
Derrycrag Wood Nature Reserve
Poulnaknockaun Wood Nature Reserve
Rosturra Wood Nature Reserve
Richmond Esker Nature Reserve

AGUISÍN 2: COILLEARNACHA FAOI CHOSAINN I NGAILLIMH

(www.npws.ie)

Limistéir Chaomhantais Speisialta

Coimpléacs na Cúile-Ghairealáin
Anaclann Dúlra Choill Dhoire Chraige
Anaclann Dúlra Choill Pholl na gCnocán
Coill Ros Dora
Coill Ghort an Charnáin
Coill na Dromainne
Loch an Rois agus an Choill

Anaclanna Dúlra

Anaclann Dúlra Choill Bhaile na Stéige
Anaclanna Dúlra Pháirc na Cúile agus Ghairealáin
Anaclann Dúlra Choill Dhoire Chraige
Anaclann Dúlra Choill Pholl na gCnocán
Anaclann Dúlra Choill Ros Dora
Anaclann Dúlra Eiscir Richmond



GALWAY'S LIVING LANDSCAPES PART 2: TREES AND WOODLAND

TÍRDHREACHA BEO NA GAILLIMHE CUID 2: CRAINN AGUS COILLEARNACH

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