Weed or Wildflower?

Fiaile nó Bláth Fiáin?

Common Native Wildflowers

Bláthanna Fiáine Dúchasacha Coitianta

- **WILDLIFE VALUE**
  LUACH DON FHIADHÚLRA
- **GARDEN USE**
  ÚSÁID SA GHAIRDÍN
- **CONTROL**
  IAD A SMACHTÚ

A weed is a plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered!

Is ionann fiaile agus planda nach bhfuil a chuid buanna ar eolas fós againn!

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Weed or Wildflower?
Fiaile nó Bláth Fiáin?

This pocket guide identifies native wildflowers and highlights their value to wildlife. Some insects that benefit from them are rare, threatened and in decline. Allowing wildflowers to grow will help with the survival of these insects.

The guide also identifies control methods if plants have to be removed. Dedicating about one third of a garden or public space to native wildflowers is recommended to promote biodiversity.

San eolaí póca seo, déantar bláthanna fiáine dúchasacha a aithint agus leagtar béim ar luachanna na mbláthanna sin don fhiadhúlra. Tá cuid de na feithidí a bhaineann tairbhe as na bláthanna fiáine sin neamhchoitianta, i mbaol nó ag dul i léig. Má thugtar deis do na bláthanna fiáine sin fás, is mó seans go mairfidh na feithidí sin.

Sainaithnítear sa treoir seo modhanna srianta i gcásanna ina gcaithfear planda a bhaint. Moltar go bhfágfaí thart ar aon thrian de ghairdín nó de spás poiblí do bhláthanna fiáine dúchasacha d'fhonn an bhithéagsúlacht a chur chun cinn.

Glossary

Annual
Plants which complete their life cycle in one year and then die.

Biennial
Plants which complete their life cycle over two years and then die.

Perennial
Plants which live for more than two seasons.

Spp.
Several species

Gluais

Bliantóg
Plandaí a mbíonn a saolré caite i ndiaidh bliana agus a fhaigheann bás ansin.

Débhliantúil
Plandaí a mbíonn a saolré caite i ndiaidh dhá bhliain agus a fhaigheann bás ansin.

Ilbhliantóg
Plandaí a mhaireann ar feadh níos faide ná dhá shéasúr.

Spp.
Roinnt speiceas

Dandelion

Taraxacum spp.

Caisearbhán

Description

Perennial

Height: 35cm

Round, yellow flowerheads, hollow stem, toothed leaves, round fuzzy seedheads.

Flowering months: 03-10

Cur síos

Ilbhliantóg

35cm ar airde

Bláthanna ciorclacha buí, gas cuais, duilleoga fiaclacha, cinn síolta chiorclacha chlúmhacha.

Míonna a bhíonn faoi bhláth: 03-10

Dandelion

Taraxacum spp.

Caisearbhán

Control

- Hand weed with a trowel to remove tap root.
- Mowing/strimming/scything to control spread by seed.

Chun iad a smachtú

- Úsáid lián chun iad a bhaint de lámh chun an tsocfhréamh a bhaint.
- Lom/struimeáil/bain le speal chun smacht a choinneáil ar scaipeadh na bplandaí ón síol.

Wildlife Value (examples)

Larval food plant for Slender-striped Rufous, Rosy Wave, Mottled Rustic, Vine's Rustic, Dotted Rustic and Brown Flat-body moths. Important early and late season pollen and nectar source for honey, bumblebees and solitary bees, butterflies, beetles and hoverflies. Seeds are a food source for bullfinches and goldfinches.

Luach don Fhiadhúlra (samplaí)

Is ionann an planda agus foinse bhia do larbha na leamhan seo a leanas: Slender-striped Rufous, Rosy Wave, an Odhróg Bhreac, An Odhróg Fíniúna, an Odhróg Bhreactha agus Brown Flat-body. Foinse thábhachtach phailine agus neachtair go luath sa séasúr agus amach sa séasúr iad na bláthanna don bheach mheala, don bhumbóg, don bheach aonair, d'fhéileacáin, do chiaróga agus don bheach ghabhair. Is foinse bhia iad na síolta don chorcrán coille agus don lasair choille.

Buttercup

Ranunculus spp.

Fearbán

Description

Perennial

Height 50-100cm

Glossy, cup-shaped, bright yellow flowers. Deeply divided leaves.

Flowering months 04-10

Cur síos

Ilbhliantóg

50-100cm ar airde

Bláthanna gealbhuí snasta a bhfuil cruth cupáin orthu. Duilleoga atá an-deighilte.

Míonna a bhíonn faoi bhláth 04-10

Buttercup

Ranunculus spp.

Fearbán

Wildlife Value (examples)

Pollen and nectar source for short-tongued bees, hoverflies, beetles such as raspberry and leaf beetles and sawflies. Food plant of leaf mining flies.

Luach don Fhiadhúlra (samplaí)

Is foinse phailine agus neachtair iad na bláthanna do bheacha le teanga ghearr, don bheach ghabhair, do chiaróga amhail an chiaróg sú craobh agus an chiaróg dhuille agus don sábhchuil. Is foinse bia é an planda do chuileanna tolltacha duille.

Control

- Hand weed with a trowel to remove fibrous roots.

Chun iad a smachtú

- Úsáid lián chun iad a bhaint de lámh chun na fréamhacha snáithíneacha a bhaint.

Nettles

Urtica dioica

Neantóg

Description

Perennial

Height 100cm

Green, hanging flower clusters. Heart-shaped leaves with stinging hairs.

Flowering months 06-10

Cur síos

Ilbhliantóg

Ilbhliantóg

100cm ar airde

Bláthbhraislí glasa crochta. Duilleoga a bhfuil cruth croí orthu agus ar a bhfuil ribíní a chuireann ga ionat.

Míonna a bhíonn faoi bhláth 06-10

Nettles

Urtica dioica

Neantóg

Control

- Hand weed with a spade to remove the extensive spreading root system.

NB Nettles can be used to make liquid fertilizer.

Chun iad a smachtú

- Úsáid láí chun na neantóga a bhaint de lámh chun fréamhchóras a scaipeann go forleathan a bhaint.

NB Is féidir neantóga a úsáid chun leasachán leachtach a dhéanamh.

Wildlife Value (examples)

Larval food plant for Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Red Admiral, Painted Lady and Peacock butterflies. Larval food plant for Small Magpie, Burnished Brass, The Spectacle, and Golden Y moths. Nettles hold overwintering aphids providing an early food source for ladybirds in spring. Aphids feeding on plants are a food source for blue tits and other birds. Nettle fibres are used for nest building. Seeds provide food for seed eating birds.

Luach don Fhiadhúlra (samplaí)

Is ionann an planda agus foinse bia do larbha na bhféileacán seo a leanas - an Ruán Beag, an Chamóg, an tAimiréal Dearg, an tÁilleán agus an Phéacóg. Is ionann an planda agus foinse bia do larbha na leamhan seo a leanas - an Bhreacóg Bheag, an Phrásach, an Spectacle Moth agus an Golden Y Moth. Maireann aifidí beathaithe geimhridh ar neantóga a chuireann foinse bhia luath ar fáil don bhóín Dé san earrach. Is foinse bhia iad aifidí a bhíonn ag ithe plandaí don mheantán gorm agus d'éin eile. Baineann éin úsáid as ribíní na neantóg chun neadacha a thógáil. Cuireann na síolta bia ar fáil d'éin a itheann síolta.

Bird's-foot-trefoil

Lotus corniculatus

Crobh éin

Description

Perennial

Height 10cm

Yellow, pea-like flowers with orange markings. Oval leaves

Flowering months 06-08

Cur síos

Ilbhliantóg

10cm ar airde

Bláthanna buí a bhfuil marcanna oráiste orthu agus atá cosúil le bláthanna pise. Duilleoga ubhchrutha.

Míonna faoi bhláth 06-08

Bird's-foot-trefoil

Lotus corniculatus

Crobh éin

Wildlife Value (examples)

Larval food for Common Blue, Green Hairstreak, Wood White, Cryptic Wood White, Dingy Skipper and Clouded Yellow butterflies.

Pollen and nectar source for honey bees, wasps, sawflies and food plant for a wide variety of beetles and moths.

Luach don Fhiadhúlra (samplaí)

Is ionann an planda agus foinse bhia do larbha na bhféileacán seo a leanas: an Gormán Coiteann, an Stiallach Uaine, an Bhánóg Choille, an Bhánóg Choille Dhuaithne, an Donnán agus an Bhuíóg Chróch.

Foinse phailine agus neachtair iad na bláthanna don beach mheala, an fhoiche, an tsábhchuil agus is ionann é agus bia do raon leathan ciaróg agus leamhan.

Control

- Hand weed with a trowel to remove deep root system.

Chun iad a smachtú

- Úsáid lián chun iad a bhaint de lámh chun an fréamhchóras domhain a bhaint.

Hedge bindweed

Calystegia sepium

Ialus fáil

Description

Perennial

Height 200-300cm

Tubular shaped white or pink (with white stripes) flowers. Arrow/heart shaped leaves.

Flowering months 06-09

Cur síos

Ilbhliantóg

200-300cm ar airde

Bláthanna bána nó bándearga (a bhfuil stríoca bána orthu) feadánach. Duilleoga a bhfuil cruth croí/ saighde orthu.

Míonna faoi bhláth 06-09

Hedge bindweed

Calystegia sepium

Ialus fáil

Wildlife Value (examples)

Larval food plant for White Plume and Small Magpie moths. Pollen and nectar source for bees, hoverflies and some butterflies like Gatekeeper (occurring in southern coastal region of Ireland) and at night for hawkmoths. Food plant of flea beetles.

Luach don Fhiadhúlra (samplaí)

Is ionann an planda agus foinse bhia do larbha na leamhan seo a leanas: White Plume Moth agus an Bhreacóg Bheag. Foinse phailine agus neachtair don bheach, don bheach ghabhair agus do roinnt féileacán amhail an Geatóir (atá le fáil i réigiún chósta iarthair na hÉireann) agus is foinse phailine agus neachtair é san oíche don chonach súileach. Is ionann an planda agus bia don chiaróg dhreancaidiúil.

Control

- Deep extraction by spade to remove the spreading roots. May have to be repeated for newly emerging plants.

Chun iad a smachtú

- Bain na fréamhacha doimhne le láí nó bain na fréamhacha atá ag scaipeadh. D’fhéadfadh go mbeadh gá iad a bhaint arís nuair a thagann phlandaí nua chun cinn.

Red clover

Trifolium pratense

Seamair dhearg

Description

Perennial

Height 30-40 cm

Round heads of dark pink or white pea-like flowers. Leaves arranged in 3's with white markings.

Flowering months 05-10

Cur síos

Ilbhliantóg

30-40cm ar airde

Cinn chiorclacha de bhláthanna dú-bhándearg nó bána atá cosúil le bláthanna pise. 3 duilleog in éineacht ar a bhfuil marcanna bána.

Míonna a bhíonn faoi bhláth 05-10

Red clover

Trifolium pratense

Seamair dhearg

Wildlife Value (examples)

Larval food plant for Clouded Yellow butterfly. Pollen and nectar source for Common Blue butterfly, honey bees, bumblebees and solitary bees as well as hoverflies.

Luach don Fhiadhúlra (samplaí)

Is ionann an planda agus foinse bia do larbha na Buíóige Cróch. Foinse phailine agus neachtair don Ghormán Coiteann, don bheach mheala, don bhumbóg, don bheach aonair agus don bheach ghabhair.

Control

- Hand weed with a trowel to remove fibrous roots.

NB Restores nitrogen to the soil.

Chun iad a smachtú

- Úsáid lián chun iad a bhaint de lámh chun na fréamhacha snáithíneacha a bhaint.

NB Athbhunaíonn nítrigin san ithir.

Dock

Rumex spp.

Copóg

Description

Perennial

Height 40-100cm

Green flower clusters that change to rusty-red. Large oval or elongated leaves.

Flowering months 06-09

Cur síos

Ilbhliantóg

40-100cm ar airde

Bláthbhraislí glasa a athraíonn go dath rua/dath na meirge. Duilleoga móra ubhchruthacha nó fadaithe.

Míonna a bhíonn faoi bhláth 06-09

Dock

Rumex spp.

Copóg

Wildlife Value (examples)

Larval food plant for Small Copper butterfly, Heart and Club moth and many more micro-moth species. Food plant of green dock beetle. Bullfinches and other seed eating birds feed on dock seeds.

Luach don Fhiadhúlra (samplaí)

Is ionann an planda agus foinse bia do larbha na Copróga Bige, an leamhain Croí-is-club agus go leor speiceas de mhicri-leamhain eile. Is ionann an planda agus bia don chiaróg chopóige uaine. Itheann an Corcrán Coille agus éin eile a itheann síolta síolta na copóige.

Control

- Weed with a spade or tool like a 'dock digger' to remove the long tap root.

Chun iad a smachtú

- Úsáid láí nó uirlis amhail 'tochaltóir copóige' chun an tsocfhréamh fhada a bhaint.

Bramble

Rubus fructicosus

Dris

Description

Shrub

Height 300cm

Pink or white flowers and oval leaves.

Flowering months 05-09

Cur síos

Tor

300cm ar airde

Bláthanna bándearga nó bána agus duilleoga ubhchrutha.

Míonna a bhíonn faoi bhláth 05-09

Bramble

Rubus fruticosus

Dris

Wildlife Value (examples)

Larval food for Green Hairstreak and Holly Blue butterflies. Larval food for Buff Arches, Peach Blossom and Fox moths. Pollen and nectar source for honey bees, bumblebees and solitary bees, hoverflies, wasps, butterflies, moths, flies and lacewings. Blackbirds, thrushes, chaffinches, starlings, robins, pheasants, foxes, badgers, mice and other small mammals eat the fruits. Robins, wrens, thrushes, blackbirds, warblers and finches nest in bramble and small mammals use it for protection from predators.

Luach don Fhiadhúlra (samplaí)

Is ionann an planda agus foinse bia do larbha na bhféileacán seo a leanas: an Stiallach Uaine agus an Gormán Cuilinn. Is ionann an planda agus foinse bia do larbha na leamhan seo a leanas: an Stuabhuí, an Leamhan Péitseogach, an Leamhan Sionnaigh. Foinse phailine agus neachtair don bheach mheala, don bhumbóg, don bheach aonair, don bheach ghabhair, d'fhéileacáin, leamhain, cuileanna agus don lásóg. Itheann an lon dubh, an smólach, an rí rua, an druid, an spideog, an piasún, an sionnach, an broc, an luch agus mamaigh beaga eile na torthaí. Tógann an spideog, an dreoilín, an smólach, an lon dubh, an ceolaire agus an glasán a gcuid neadacha sa dris agus úsáideann mamaigh beaga é chun cosaint a fháil ó chreachadóirí.

Control

- Cut back top growth and dig out roots with a spade. Easier to remove immediately after a hard frost.

Chun iad a smachtú

- Gearr siar an méid a fhásann as an nua agus bain na fréamhacha le láí. Tá sé níos éasca an dris a bhaint díreach i ndiaidh sioc trom.

Robin-run-the-hedge/Cleavers

Galium aparine

Garbhlus/Lus garbh

Description

Annual

Height 100cm

Tiny white flowers and whorls of long leaves. Leaves, stems and seeds have 'hooks' making them sticky.

Flowering months 05-09

Cur síos

Bliantóg

100cm ar airde

Bláthanna beaga bídeacha bána agus rothóga de dhuilleoga fada. Tá 'duáin' ar na duilleoga, ar na gais agus ar na síolta chun go ngreamóidh siad do nithe.

Míonna a bhíonn faoi bhláth 05-09

Robin-run-the-hedge/Cleavers

Galium aparine

Garbhlus/Lus garbh

Wildlife Value (examples)

Larval food plant for Hummingbird Hawkmoth, Red Twin-Spot Carpet and Barred Straw moths. Favoured by aphids and froghoppers.

Luach don Fhiadhúlra (samplaí)

IIs ionann an planda agus foinse bia do larbha na leamhan seo a leanas: an Conach Foluana Red Twin-Spot Carpet Moth agus Barred Straw Moth. Tá an-tóir ag aifidí agus ag an míol seile cuaiche orthu.

Control

- Hand pull or hoe as plants appear. Plants will not regrow from roots left behind.

Chun iad a smachtú

- Bain de lámh iad nó úsáid grafán de réir mar a fhásann siad. Ní fhásfaidh plandaí as na fréamhacha a fhágtar sa talamh.

Redshank, Knotgrass

Persicaria spp

Glúineach dhearg

Description

Most annual, some perennial

Height 80-100cm

Pink flower spikes and long pointed leaves with dark spots.

Flowering months 06-10

Cur síos

Bliantóga den chuid is mó, ilbhliantóga cuid díobh

80-100cm ar airde

Crobhaingí blátha bándearga agus duilleoga bioracha fada ar a bhfuil spotaí dorcha.

Míonna a bhíonn faoi bhláth 06-10

Redshank, Knotgrass

Persicaria spp

Glúineach dhearg

Wildlife Value (examples)

Larval food plant for many micro-moths. Food plant of leaf and flea beetles and weevils. Seeds are an important food source for seed eating songbirds.

Luach don Fhiadhúlra (samplaí)

Is ionann an planda agus foinse bia do larbha go leor speiceas de mhicri-leamhain. Is ionann an planda agus bia don chiaróg dhuille, don chiaróg dhreancaidiúil agus don ghobachán. Is foinse thábhachtach na síolta d'éin cheoil a itheann síolta.

Control (when unavoidable)

- Hand pull or hoe as plants appear.

Smacht (nuair atá dosheachanta)

- Bain de lámh iad nó úsáid grafán de réir mar a fhásann siad.

Spear Thistle

Cirsium vulgare

Feochadán colgach

Description

Biennial

Height 100cm

Tight purple clusters of purple flowers. Spiky, pointed leaves

Flowering months 07-09

Cur síos

Débhliantúil

100cm ar airde

Crobhaingí dlútha de bhláthanna corcra. Duilleoga bioracha deilgneacha

Míonna a bhíonn faoi bhláth 07-09

Spear Thistle

Cirsium vulgare

Feochadán colgach

Wildlife Value (examples)

Larval food plant for Painted Lady butterfly. Pollen and nectar source for Small Copper butterfly, honey bees, bumblebees and solitary bees and hoverflies. Goldfinches feed on seeds. Bats feed on night-flying insects visiting the flowers.

Luach don Fhiadhúlra (samplaí)

Is ionann an planda agus foinse bia do larbha an Áilleáin. Foinse phailine agus neachtair don Chopróg Bheag, don bheach mheala, don bhumbóg, don bheach aonair agus don bheach ghabhair. Itheann an Lasair Choille na síolta. Itheann sciatháin leathair feithidí a bhíonn ar na bláthanna san oíche.

Control (when unavoidable)

- Weed with a spade or tool like a ‘dock digger’ to remove plant including the long tap root.
- Deadhead spent flowers to prevent seeds from spreading.

Smacht (nuair atá dosheachanta)

- Úsáid láí nó uirlis amhail ‘tochaltóir copóige’ chun an planda a bhaint, an tsocfhréamh fhada leis.
- Gearr na bláthanna spíonta chun scaipeadh na síolta a chosc.

Rosebay Willowherb

Chamaenerion angustifolium

Lus na tine

Description

Perennial

Height 150-180cm

Pink-purple flowers and pointy leaves.

Flowering months 05-09

Cur síos

Bliantóga den chuid is mó, illbhliantóg

150-180cm ar airde

Bláthanna bándearga-corcra agus duilleoga bioracha.

Míonna a bhíonn faoi bhláth 05-09

Rosebay Willowherb

Chamaenerion angustifolium

Lus na tine

Wildlife Value (examples)

Larval food plant for several species of moths like the Elephant Hawkmoth. Pollen and nectar source for butterflies, hoverflies and bees. Food plant for leaf beetles, plant bugs, sawflies. Aphids feeding on plants are a food source for blue tits and other birds.

Luach don Fhiadhúlra (samplaí)

Is ionann an planda agus foinse bia do larbha roinnt speiceas leamhan amhail an Conach Eilifinteach. Foinse phailine agus neachtair d'fhéileacáin, don bheach ghabhair agus do bheacha. Is ionann an planda agus foinse bia do chiaróga, feithidí plandaí agus do shábhchuil. Is foinse bhia iad aifidí a bhíonn ag ithe plandaí don mheantán gorm agus d'éin eile.

Control (when unavoidable)

- Hand weed with a trowel to remove roots.
- Deadhead spent flowers to prevent seeds from spreading.

Smacht (nuair atá dosheachanta)

- Úsáid lián chun iad a bhaint de lámh chun na fréamhacha a bhaint.
- Gearr na bláthanna spíonta chun scaipeadh na síolta a chosc.

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