

## CAL FAICHE NETTLES

(*Urtica dioica*)

*In bloom:* June, July, August

- grow up to 2metres tall
- spread rapidly by their roots to form large patches, especially when the soil has plenty of nutrients
- their flowers are green and tiny, on separate male and female plants
- females can be identified easily when they have seed
- the dark green leaves are arranged in opposite pairs with deeply toothed edges
- the whole plant is covered in tiny stinging hairs



## AIRGEAD LUACHRA MEADOW SWEET

(*Filipendula ulmaria*)

*In bloom:* June, July, August

- grows up to 120cm tall, quickly
- grows in damp soil
- leaves are distinctive with small leafy bits between each pair of leaflets
- have a medicinal smell when crushed
- makes cream-coloured sprays of tiny white flowers
- the overall shape of these sprays is like a champagne flute
- *not to be confused with species in the Carrot family whose flowers are whiter with a more rounded overall shape*



## GALLFHEABHRÁN ANGELICA (Large Umbel)

(*Angelica sylvestris*)

*In bloom:* May, June, July, August

- grow 1 to 2 metres tall
- have tiny white flowers in branched umbels
- have ball-shaped flower heads
- have smooth, hairless purple-brown stems with a whitish bloom
- the flowering head has 20-30 rays
- the large, divided leaves have toothed leaflets that are fully separated from each other

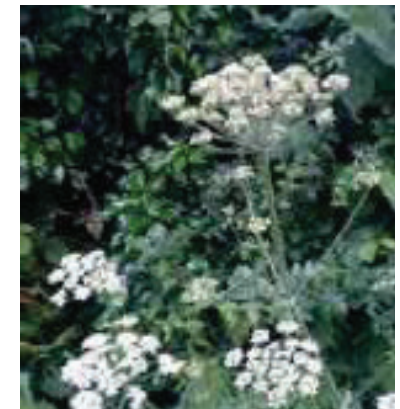


## FHEABHRÁN HOGWEED (Large Umbel)

(*Heracleum sphondylium*)

*In bloom:* May, June, July, August

- grow 1 to 2 metres tall
- have tiny white flowers in branched umbels
- flower heads are quite flat on top
- have fewer rays than Angelica
- the stems are green, ridged, and finely hairy
- their huge leaves have leaflets that are not separated from each other



## MEALBHACÁN

WILD CARROT (*Small Umbel*)  
(*Daucus carota*)

*In bloom:* June, July, August, September

- grow 30 - 75cm tall
- found in grassland & along country lanes
- has thin forked bracts surrounding its flower heads
- flower heads are creamy-white & can look pinkish when young
- flower heads sometimes have a single red flower in the middle
- leaves look and smell like carrot



## FEOCHADÁN CORRAIGH

### MEADOW THISTLE

(*Cirsium dissectum*)

*In bloom:* June, July, August

All thistles have sharp spines on their leaves and small flowers held in a compact head. They have hairy seeds which are dispersed by the wind.

#### Meadow thistle:

- grows up to 60cm tall
- grows in damp grassland
- has a **single purple flower head** on a **spineless stem**
- the whole plant looks pale because it is covered in soft white hairs
- has purple spines on each undivided leaf but these are quite soft to touch



## CÚLARÁN

PIGNUT (*Small Umbel*)  
(*Conopodium majus*)

*In bloom:* May, June

- grow up to 50cm tall
- found in woodlands, hedge banks & grassland
- the feathery leaves show early in the spring
- has nodding young white flower heads which turn upwards as they mature



## FEOCHADÁN MÓNA

### MARSH THISTLE

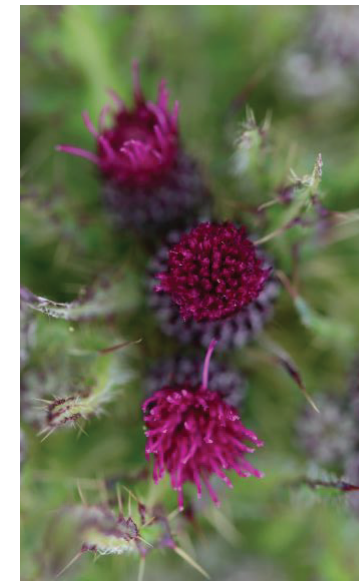
(*Cirsium palustre*)

*In bloom:* June, July, August

All thistles have sharp spines on their leaves and small flowers held in a compact head. They have hairy seeds which are dispersed by the wind.

#### Marsh thistle:

- grows up to 120cm tall
- grows in soils which hold moisture
- it is a biennial (life cycle of 2 years)
- it has dark purple, sometimes white flower-heads, in clusters
- leaves are dark and have purple marks at their edges
- stems are winged with sharp points





## PEASAIR NA LUCH

### TUFTED VETCH

(*Vicia cracca*)

*In bloom:* June, July, August

- stragglers with tendrils or short points at the end of their pinnate leaves
- have pea-like flowers in clusters
- grow up to 2metres tall
- have bluish purple flowers
- 10-40 flowers in each spike
- leaves are made of many fine parallel-sided leaflets with a long tendril at the top which it uses to hold onto the stems of other plants



## MAGAIRLÍN

### ORCHIDS

*In bloom:* May, June, July

- Ireland has 30 native wild orchid species
- usually found in soil low in nutrients
- in grassland, orchids are short to medium-high plants with unusual flowers
- have strap-like leaves with parallel veins
- have a short summer flowering season but the leaf rosettes may be found throughout the winter



## BOLADH CNIS

### LADY'S BEDSTRAW

(*Galium verum*)

*In bloom:* May, June, July, August

- typically grow 10-30cm tall
- have small yellow flowers
- straggle through grass on thin stems
- the flowers of Bedstraws have four tiny petals
- leaves are placed in whorls around the square stem
- is found on alkaline soils



## FEILEASTRAM

### YELLOW-FLAG IRIS

(*Iris pseudacorus*)

*In bloom:* June, July, August

- can grow up to 1.5 metres tall
- likes to grow in damp areas, such as marshes, bogs, around lakes, ditches, riverbanks
- large bright yellow blooms in clusters of twos and threes
- great attractor for bees and butterflies
- tubers are harmful if eaten (as with all irises)



## LON DUBH

### BLACKBIRD

(*Turdus merula*)

- males are black plumage with yellow bill (as pictured)
- females are brown, with pale speckles on throat & chest
- adults grow to approx 24cm tall
- member of the thrush family
- very vocal singers, tuneful with rich tone and clear phrases
- feeds on earthworms and other insects
- builds cup-shaped nests made from grasses lined with mud, in trees or bushes
- up to five broods per season

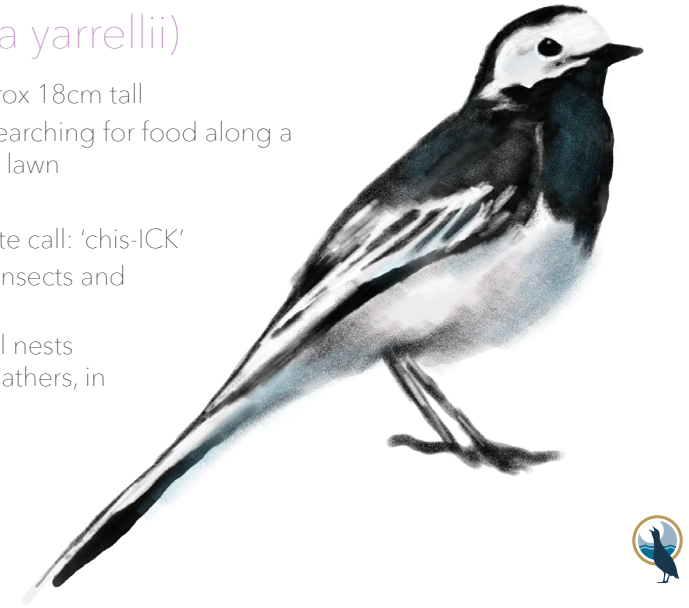


## GLASÓG SHRÁIDE

### PIED WAGTAIL

(*Motacilla alba yarrellii*)

- adults grow to approx 18cm tall
- can often be seen searching for food along a footpath or an open lawn
- are very social
- make a loud two note call: 'chis-ICK'
- mainly feed on tiny insects and other invertebrates
- like to nest in small nests made with hair and feathers, in holes in walls
- two to three broods



## SPIDEOG

### ROBIN

(*Erithacus rubecula*)

- adults grow to 12-14cm tall
- Ireland's most widespread garden bird
- beautiful song, variety of call including a 'tic', sometimes repeated
- feeds on insects, seeds & some fruits
- builds cup-shaped nests in shrubs or bushes, or in cavities in walls or trees
- lays 5-7 bluish-white eggs
- two to three broods



## DREOLIN

### WREN

(*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

- one of Ireland's smallest birds (9-10cm tall)
- found in most habitats (*farmland, woodland, scrub, etc.*)
- very loud, trilling song
- feeds on small insects & their larvae
- builds a hidden, dome-shaped nest made from moss
- lays 5-8 whitish eggs
- two broods

