

Common Hedgerow/Roadside and Urban Plants of Tralee

Our hedgerows and road sides are home to many beautiful and interesting species of flora and fauna.
Using this species spotter sheet, see how many different species of flora you can find as you enjoy your walk around Tralee. Supported by Kerry County Council, the Community Environment Action Fund.



Honeysuckle
Lonicera periclymenum
Féithleann

Also referred to as woodbine, Honeysuckle is an enthusiastic climber that has an inviting fragrance, making it very popular with pollinators, of both night and day. It is visited by the Elephant Hawk Moth in search of nectar.

Flowers from: June-August.



Bush Vetch
Vicia sepium
Peasair fhíáin

Bush Vetch is a common wildflower to grace our hedgerows and roadsides. Flowers come in varying shades of mauve/purple and it has a long flowering season. The plant uses tendrils to support itself against other plants.

Flowers from: April-October.



Herb-robert
Geranium robertianum
Ruithéal rí

A very common species which inhabits a wide variety of habitats. Delicate pink flowers with 5 petals. In folklore, its leaves were boiled and used a poultice. This herb has also been used to treat 'red-water', a disease in cattle.

Flowers from: March-October.



Meadow Vetchling
Lathyrus pratensis
Peasairín buí

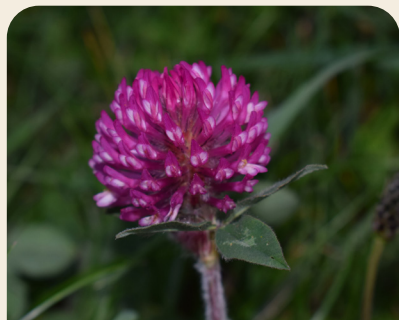
Straggly member of the pea family with distinctive yellow pea flowers in groups of 4-12. Leaves occur in single pairs. Very commonly seen alongside damp roadsides and hedgerows. The Wood White butterfly lays her eggs on this plant.

Flowers from: May-September.



Common Knapweed
Centaurea nigra
Mínscoth

Sometimes referred to as 'Buttonweed', Common Knapweed is popular with pollinators, such as bumblebees and butterflies. Knapweed is a distinctive member of the daisy family and the purple flower heads are composed of many tens of mini flowers called florets. Knapweed historically had a wide range of functions, from wound healing to foretelling a maiden's future! Flowers from: June-October.



Red Clover
Trifolium pratense
Seamair dhearg

Loved by bumblebees, Red Clover is a well-recognised member of the pea family with its trifoliate leaves and globular pink/red flower heads. Like many other members of the pea family, red clover has the ability to fix nitrogen.

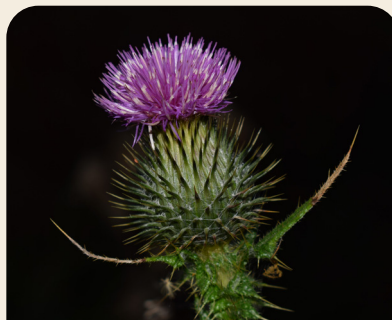
Flowers from: June-October.



Germander Speedwell
Veronica chamaedrys
Lus cré talún

Out of all the speedwell species that occur in Ireland, Germander Speedwell is perhaps the easiest to identify, and is very common. Flowers are a distinctive blue colour and there are two lines of hairs, either side of the stem.

Flowers from: March-September.



Spear Thistle
Cirsium vulgare
Feochadán colgach

Conspicuous deep purple flower heads, which are composed of numerous individual flowers called 'florets'. Spear Thistle is an extremely spiny and robust plant and reaches heights of 150cm. These purple flowers are a magnet for butterflies and other pollinators.

Flowers from: late June-October.



Yarrow
Achillea millefolium
Athair thalún

Flowers heads are composed of white/pink ray florets and yellow/cream disc florets. Yarrow has distinctive feathery leaves, composed of numerous leaflets. Very commonly spotted along roadsides. The Greek warrior Achilles was said to have used Yarrow for curing wounds after battle and it is a known cure to help ease the symptoms of rheumatism.

Flowers from: June-November.



Wood Avens
Geum urbanum
Machall coille

Also known as Herb Bennet, this species has bright yellow petals that are well separated from each other. In the 15th Century, Wood Avens was hung over doors as it was thought to be a repellent of evil spirits! The roots can be used in cooking and give a mild taste like cloves and cinnamon.

Flowers from: May-September.