

Choosing non-invasive plants

for the island of Ireland



An tIonad Náisiúnta
Sonraí Bithéagsúlachta
National Biodiversity
Data Centre

What to plant in parks and gardens
instead of invasive species



Invasive Species
Northern Ireland
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Invasives.ie
Invasive Alien Species in Ireland



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What to plant in parks and gardens instead of invasive species

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Cover Photo: Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*)
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Northern Ireland
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The Heritage Council**



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Introduction

The use of non-native plants in gardens and ornamental horticulture is highlighted as one of the main pathways and sources for the introduction of invasive plant species to the wider landscape.

Many invasive plant species now found in the wild on the island of Ireland started as garden plants and these were intentionally imported by gardeners and landscapers to enhance our gardens. Thousands of non-native plant species have been imported for use in our gardens but only a small percentage have “jumped the garden fence” into the wild, and now these are having huge impacts in the wider landscape.

Those that “escaped” include the familiar invasives such as Rhododendron, Japanese Knotweed, Giant Rhubarb and Hottentot Fig. While these invasive examples are a small number of the total number of introduced garden plants that have gone rogue, their “escape” has very negatively impacted our woodland, sea cliffs and grasslands as well as their biodiversity.

Invasive species are often more competitive than native species, because of the lack of natural controls such as diseases or predators. Their impacts include altering nutrient cycling and hydrology, and diminishing the abundance or survival of native species and those species that rely on them. Anyone who has stood near a stand



of Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) or Giant Rhubarb (*Gunnera* spp.) know that there is nothing else that can compete or grow alongside them, as they totally swamp the habitat in dense stands and their impact also affects our future flora as the seedbanks are full of their offspring.

This guide set out to review the available ornamental plant species in trade in Ireland and to highlight those that are causing problems at home and abroad. More importantly we highlight those that do not show any signs of invasiveness and are “safe alternatives” to weedy ornamental species for use in gardens and landscaping. Native species are best for biodiversity, but many of the ornamental plants listed in this guide can also provide food and shelter for wildlife.

Through selecting these suggested garden worthy alternatives to regulated and unregulated invasive plant species you can still have a beautiful exotic garden but be guided by the knowledge that the species selected here are not nor have never known to become invasive, and in doing so you help protect our local landscapes from any future plant pests.



How to use this guide

We have in each section highlighted invasive species that are regulated under Law in Ireland. The European Union (Invasive Alien Species) Regulation SI 374/2024 lists those of national concern for which it is an offence under part 5 paragraph 17 (1) to *(a) introduce into the State, (b) keep, including in contained holding, (c) breed, including in contained holding, and (d) import into, export from or transport within the State, except for the transportation of species to facilities in the context of eradication, (e) place on the market, (f) use, exchange or offer for exchange, (g) permit to reproduce, grow or cultivate, including in contained holding, or (h) release into the environment.* The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended in 2020) lists unwanted species which are not included in the above EU Regulation. Under Article 15 of the Order it is an offence to *buy, sell, advertise, transport, plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any of the listed species (or their hybrids).*

Most of the plants we have selected are wildlife friendly plants and we set out to select forms that are beneficial to birds and bees in the main.

The following are sectioned in the book by category



Trees



Shrubs



Ponds



Climbers



Herbaceous



Ground Cover



Coastal Gardens



Bulbs



Hedging



Ornamental Grasses & Foliage



Green Roofs & Walls



Urban Landscapes incl. Roundabouts



Urban Planters & Containers



Tropical Foliage Style



Rain Gardens

Within our gardens we need to follow these responsible steps:



Know what you Grow

Choose the right plants for your garden, pond, aquarium and water feature.



Stop the Spread

Keep your plants in your garden. Don't plant them or allow them to grow or disperse into the wild. Be careful what you share.



Compost with Care

Dispose of your unwanted plants, roots, weeds and seeds responsibly making sure nothing gets into the wild.

In some places we have seen dumping of garden waste into ditches and streams in the wider landscape. This allows exotic garden plants access to the wider landscape so please compost and dispose of your garden waste with care.

Help prevent future invasions by reporting plants which you notice are spreading in your garden and are hard to keep under control.

Submit your records at bsbi.org/plant-alert to help scientists identify which species are likely to become a problem in the wild in the future.

If you think you've spotted an invasive plant in the wild, you can report it online with a photograph via the following reporting channels:

Ireland

Report sightings to the NBDC via this form:



Northern Ireland

Report sightings to CEDaR via this form:
Or use the iRecord app



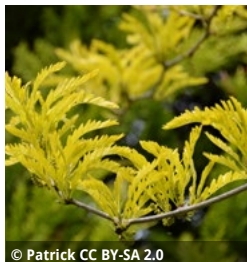


© Daniel Cahen CC BY 4.0

Ailanthus altissima

Tree of Heaven

Grown in gardens (seed and sucker production has been observed) however, not as yet recorded in the wild in Ireland. Outcompetes native flora by releasing chemicals that hinder the growth of native species. Causes damage to surfaces and structures in urban settings. Has the potential to be of greater concern with future climate change. Causes dermatitis.

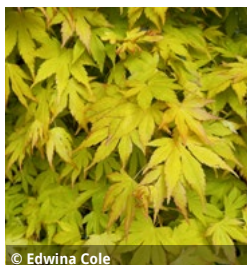


© Patrick CC BY-SA 2.0

Gleditsia triacanthos

Honey Locust

Although not as yet recorded in the wild in Ireland, this species, and cultivars of this species are found in the horticulture trade in Ireland. Can shade out native plant species and invertebrates. Spreads primarily by seed and vegetatively by suckers if the roots are damaged. Forms dense thickets which can impede access and choke waterways.



© Edwina Cole

Acer palmatum

Japanese Maple

An attractive small deciduous tree that can reach up to 8m in height. Divided leaves of 5 to 7 lobes are produced in spring. Winged fruits appear in autumn. Requires a sheltered position as susceptible to leaf scorch from strong winds.

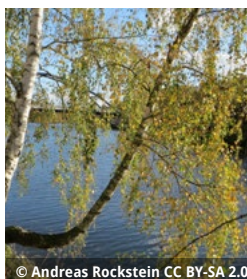


© Axel Rohde CC BY 2.0

Arbutus unedo

Strawberry-tree

A small evergreen tree with attractive peeling bark. Can reach up to 15m in height. Leaves are glossy and dark green, with serrated edges. Produces masses of white urn-shaped flowers in November and December. Red edible berries, approx. 1.5cm in diameter are produced and take 12 months to mature, therefore both blossom and berries are found at the same time.



© Andreas Rockstein CC BY-SA 2.0

Betula pendula

Silver Birch

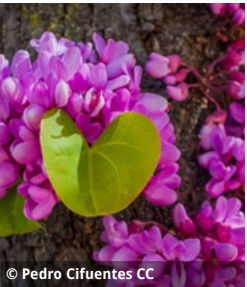
A fast-growing medium-sized tree which can reach up to 30m in height. Produces small triangular-shaped toothed leaves on fine branches. Flowers from April to May with long yellow-brown male catkins and small bright green, erect female catkins. These remain on the tree and contain masses of mature seed in autumn.



Cercis siliquastrum

Judas Tree

A beautiful small slow-growing tree that can reach 12m in height. Masses of magenta pea-like flowers are borne on the bare branches in late spring followed by broad heart-shaped leaves. Deep purple flattened pods develop in autumn. Well-suited to small gardens. Drought tolerant.



© Pedro Cifuentes CC

Cornus kousa

Korean Dogwood

A small deciduous tree that can reach up to 7m in height. Oval leaves appear in spring, followed by tiny flowers that are surrounded by 4 showy and long-lasting cream bracts. Deep pink strawberry-like fruits appear in autumn. Well-suited to a small garden.



© F.D. Richards CC BY-SA 2.0

Frangula alnus 'Asplenifolia'

Alder Buckthorn 'Asplenifolia'

A slow-growing bushy deciduous tree that can reach up to 4m in height. Fine narrow scalloped edged leaves are produced in spring, along with clusters of green flowers. These develop into small red fruits in autumn that ripen to black. Will tolerate wet soil but not coastal winds.

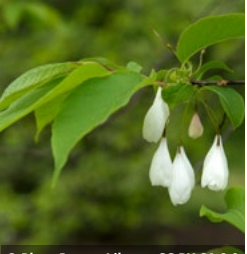


© James St. John CC BY 2.0

Halesia carolina

Snowdrop Tree

A fast-growing bushy deciduous tree with an open crown that can reach up to 8m in height on maturity. Clusters of pendant white bell-shaped flowers are produced in spring along with oval light green leaves. The flowers develop into distinctive green four-winged fruits in autumn which can persist on the tree into winter. Good yellow autumn foliage.

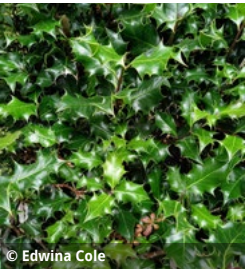


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Ilex aquifolium

Holly

An attractive small, slow-growing evergreen hardy tree which can reach 15m in height. Glossy dark green leaves that are spiky with young. Separate male and female trees bear small creamy flowers in spring/early summer but only the female trees bear bright red berries in winter.



© Edwina Cole



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Liquidambar styraciflua

Sweet Gum

A large slow-growing tree with a conical crown that can reach up to 20m in height at maturity. Green glossy 5–7 lobed leaves, similar to maple leaves, are produced in spring. Spiky spheres of seed capsules appear in autumn. One of the best trees for autumn leaf colour. Tolerant of urban pollution. Resistant to rabbit grazing.



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Magnolia stellata

Star Magnolia

A slow growing small tree that only reaches approx. 2.5m in height. Lightly scented white flowers, composed of up to 18 oblong tepals, are produced in early spring before the narrow obovate leaves emerge. Requires a sheltered position. Can tolerate alkaline soils. Perfect for small gardens.

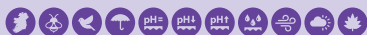


© Lisa Phipps CC

Malus sylvestris

Crab Apple

A beautiful small deciduous tree that can reach 10m in height and live for up to 100 years. Oval leaves with serrated edges are produced in spring. Pink/white apple blossom appear in May and June. These are followed by yellow-green apple fruits, sometimes flushed with red, approx. 2-3cm in diameter. Provides good autumn foliage colour before the leaves fall.



© Wendy Cutler CC BY-SA 2.0

Prunus 'Shirotae' or other cultivars

Cherry 'Shirotae'

A beautiful small spreading deciduous tree, up to 8m in height. Masses of white, semi-double fragrant flowers are produced in spring before the leaves emerge, and it is one of the earliest Japanese cherries to flower. Provides great autumn foliage colour before the leaves fall.



Sorbus aria

Common Whitebeam

A deciduous broadleaf dome-shaped small tree (up to 15m in height) with oval serrated leaves that have a pale under surface. Cream flowers ripen in late summer or autumn to red berries. Tolerant of coastal exposure.



© Sam Thomas CC BY-SA 2.0

Sorbus aucuparia

Rowan

A small deciduous tree (up to 15m in height) with creamy-white flower clusters in spring and scarlet red berries in autumn. Its pinnate leaves turn an attractive red-orange colour before they fall. Frequently bird-sown on waste ground. Suitable for higher altitudes up to 1000m.



© Hans Kylberg CC BY 2.0

Taxus baccata

Yew

A very slow growing coniferous tree, up to 20m in height. Its small straight needle foliage is dark green above and grey-green below. Small flowers are produced in March and April, with the female flowers going on to develop into fleshy red berry-like structures that encase a single seed. Will tolerate shade.



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REGULATED INVASIVE SPECIES



© John Brew CC BY 4.0

Rhododendron ponticum

Rhododendron

Widespread and established in Ireland. Outcompetes native flora by releasing chemicals that hinder the growth of native species. Decreases biodiversity by shading. Provides a host for *Phytophthora* fungal pathogens. Toxic to humans and livestock.

UNREGULATED INVASIVE SPECIES



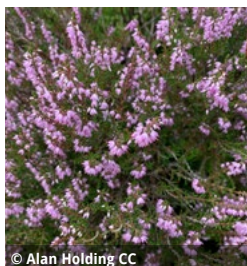
© Benjamin Flatt CC BY 4.0

Buddleja davidii

Buddleja

Widespread and established in Ireland especially in urban areas. Can cause damage to surfaces and structures in urban settings with copious viable seed production and germination, and also through stem and root fragments. Displaces local species. If grown beside riverbanks can cause significant erosion.

ALTERNATIVE SPECIES



© Alan Holding CC

Calluna vulgaris

Heather

A low evergreen shrub (up to 0.5m in height) with very small scale-like opposite leaves. Produces very small pinkish purple bell-shaped flowers from mid-summer to late autumn. Needs acidic soils. An excellent plant to support bee pollinators. Can help with erosion control on steep banks.

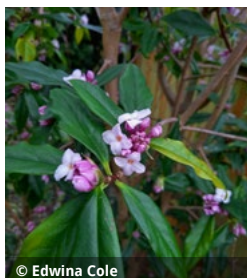


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Chimonanthus praecox

Wintersweet

A relatively slow-growing very attractive deciduous shrub with fragrant winter blooms and a multi-stemmed growth habit. Can reach up to 5m in height. Highly scented pale-yellow bell-like flowers are borne on bare stems in late winter. Shiny narrow green leaves appear in spring. Urn-shaped seed capsules appear in autumn. Grows best in a sheltered position.



© Edwina Cole

Daphne bholua

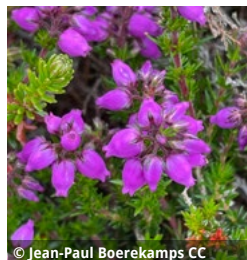
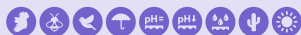
Nepalese Paper Plant

A wonderfully fragrant slow-growing evergreen (or semi-evergreen) shrub, up to 2m in height, with shiny long oval leathery leaves. Scented white/pink flowers are borne in clusters from midwinter to early spring, which later develop into black ovoid fruits. Best grown in a sheltered position. Toxic if eaten. Skin irritant.



*Erica cinerea***Bell Heather**

A low evergreen shrub with linear leaves. Produces small pink/purple bell-shaped flowers from June to August. Needs acidic soils. An excellent plant to support bee pollinators.



© Jean-Paul Boerekamps CC

*Euonymus alatus***Spindle Tree**

A large deciduous dark-leaved shrub with a spreading habit that can reach up to 2.5m in height. Primarily grown for its wonderful autumn colour of vivid shades of crimson. The small flowers produced in spring develop into bright purple/red capsules containing orange seeds in autumn. It has attractive bark with corky wings that develop on the branches. Tolerant of inland exposure. Toxic to pets.



© Matt Lavin CC BY-SA 2.0

*Exochorda racemosa***Pearl Bush**

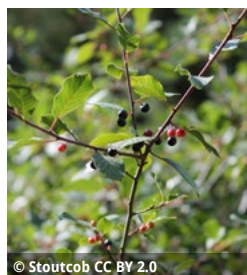
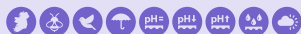
An attractive floriferous deciduous shrub with an arching habit that can reach up to 4m in height. Narrow obovate leaves are produced in spring, along with clusters of large pure white flowers with green centres. Grows best in a sheltered position.



© TANAKA Juuyoh CC BY 2.0

*Frangula alnus***Alder Buckthorn**

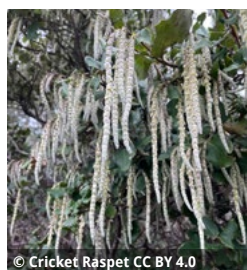
A deciduous shrub or small tree, up to 5m in height. Spineless despite the name. The young twigs are green but age to a brown colour. Leaves are entire and bluntly pointed. Small flowers are produced from May and develop into yellow fruits which mature to black. Has a long flowering and fruiting season.



© Stoutcob CC BY 2.0

*Garrya elliptica***Silk-tassel Bush**

An ornamental evergreen bushy shrub which can reach up to 3.5m in height. Leaves are leathery, ovate and have a felted grey underside. Long grey-green male catkins appear in January and February. Female plants produce much smaller catkins that develop into purple fruits in summer. Grows best in a sheltered position.



© Cricket Raspet CC BY 4.0



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Hamamelis mollis

Chinese Witch Hazel

A large deciduous shrub that can reach up to 4m in height. Spidery fragrant yellow flowers consisting of 4 ribbon-like petals appear on bare stems in late winter, followed by dark green oval leaves. These fade to a vibrant yellow-orange colour in autumn.

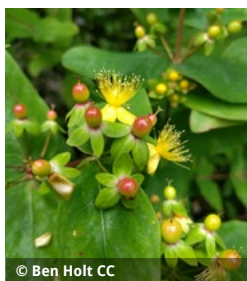


© Wendy Cutler CC BY 2.0

Hydrangea quercifolia

Oak-leaved Hydrangea

A striking spreading deciduous shrub which can reach up to 2m in height. Dark green deeply lobed leaves appear in spring, followed by conical cream-coloured flowerheads of numerous sterile star-shaped florets. Foliage turns red and purple in autumn.



© Ben Holt CC

Hypericum androsaemum

Tutsan

An attractive bushy deciduous shrub reaching almost 70cm in height. Opposite oval leaves are produced in spring. Bright yellow flowers with numerous long yellow stamens appear in midsummer, from June to September. These are followed by berry-like fruits which mature through red to black in autumn and winter. Tolerant of drought conditions.



© Theresa Grau Ros CC BY-SA 2.0

Mahonia japonica

Japanese Mahonia

An autumn and winter-flowering evergreen shrub that can reach up to 2m in height. Has dark green leathery spine-edged pinnate leaves. Drooping racemes of sweetly scented lemon-yellow flowers appear from late autumn through to early spring. These are followed by blue-black berries.



© Tim Green CC BY 2.0

Potentilla fruticosa

Shrubby Cinquefoil

A deciduous shrub with dark green pinnate leaves which can reach 1.5m in height. Produces beautiful 5-petaled, saucer-shaped yellow flowers, and cultivated forms with either pink, red or orange, from late spring to late summer. Tolerant of drought and urban pollution.



Syringa meyeri

Korean Lilac

A nice compact fragrant deciduous shrub which can reach up to 2m in height. Small dark green oval leaves are produced in spring, followed by scented conical panicles of small pink tubular flowers in late spring and early summer.

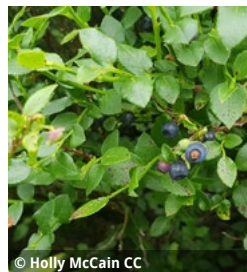


© Sandy Wolkenberg CC BY 4.0

Vaccinium myrtillus

Bilberry

A low-growing acidic soil-loving deciduous shrub (up to 60cm in height). Leaves have a glossy surface with toothed edges. Pink bell-shaped flowers are produced from April to June, which develop into purple/black berries approx. 1cm diameter.

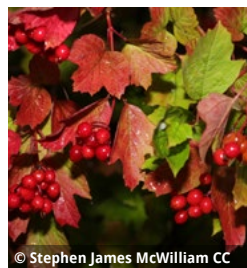


© Holly McCain CC

Viburnum opulus

Guelder-rose

An attractive hedgerow shrub with 3-lobed leaves which turn a rich colour in autumn. It can reach 4m in height. Branched clusters of creamy-white flat-topped flowers are produced from May to July with translucent crimson fruits following in autumn.



© Stephen James McWilliam CC

Also suitable for Shrubs see

Corylus avellana

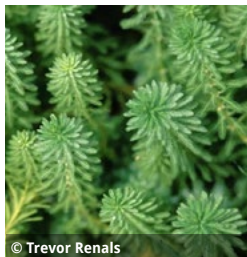
Hedging

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Euonymus europaeus

Hedging

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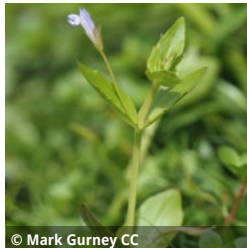


© Trevor Renals

Myriophyllum aquaticum

Parrot's-feather

A freshwater aquatic perennial plant with both submerged and emergent leaves that grow above the surface of the water. Found in slow moving, freshwater including canals, lakes and ponds. Forms dense stands and will exclude native plants when abundances are high, reducing biodiversity. Clogs waterways leading to problems for drainage and access.

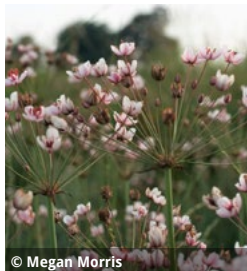


© Mark Gurney CC

Lindernia dubia

Yellowseed False Pimpernel

Not recorded in the wild in Ireland. Invasive in other parts of Europe, it has shown the potential to proliferate in natural habitats and outcompete native species.



© Megan Morris

Butomus umbellatus

Flowering-rush

A marginal aquatic perennial herb with long, linear and 3-angled basal leaves. Can reach up to 1.5m in height. Fragrant pink 6-petalled cup-shaped flowers are produced in a terminal umbel on unbranched stems from June to August. Favours damp conditions and shallow waters up to approx. 25cm.



© Stephen James McWilliam CC

Caltha palustris

Marsh-marigold

A marginal aquatic perennial herb with thick fleshy rich-green kidney-shaped leaves. Can reach up to 0.5m in height. Produces clusters of bright yellow flowers from March to June. Can sometimes flower for a second time in the summer.



© Dan Vickers CC

Ceratophyllum demersum

Rigid Hornwort

A submerged perennial oxygenating water plant for very slow flowing or still waters. The leaves are forked and rigid although feathery in appearance. These are arranged in whorls around the stem. Tiny green flowers appear in the leaf axils from May to July. Effective for nutrient uptake in alga-prone or nutrient-rich waters.



Filipendula ulmaria

Meadowsweet

A sweet-scented clump-forming perennial with pinnate leaves of finely toothed leaflets. These are dark green on the upper side and whitish underneath. Can reach up to 1m in height. Sprays of small clustered fragrant creamy-white flowers are produced on leafy stems in summer. Foliage fades to gold in summer when grown in full sun. Suited to pond edges.



© Pete Bradshaw CC

Iris pseudacorus

Yellow Iris

A marginal aquatic rhizomatous perennial plant with long strap-shaped leaves up to 100cm long. Bright yellow flowers are produced in June and July. Well-suited to ponds and wet areas.

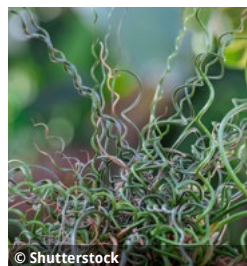


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Juncus effusus f. *spiralis*

Corkscrew Rush

An interesting evergreen clump-forming rush that can reach up to 50cm in height. Its cylindrical stems are spirally curled with a corkscrew-like twist. Clusters of small brown flowers appear from June to August.

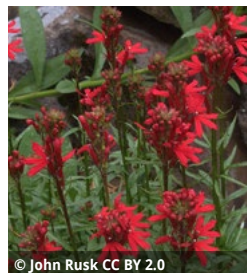


© Shutterstock

Lobelia cardinalis

Cardinal Flower

A striking short-lived clump-forming herbaceous perennial that can reach up to 1m in height. Glossy green leaves, tinged with bronze, appear in spring followed by stems of scarlet-red two-lipped flowers in summer. Prefers a sheltered position. Suited to damp soils and pond edges.



© John Rusk CC BY 2.0

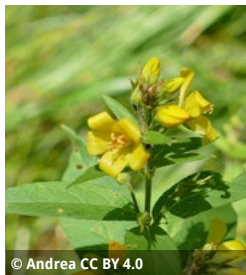
Lychnis flos-cuculi

Ragged-Robin

A pretty upright spreading perennial that can reach up to 0.75m in height. Dark green narrow lanceolate leaves are held opposite on branching stems. Pink, purple and sometimes white star-shaped flowers, with petals deeply divided into 4 segments, are produced from May until August. Well-suited to pond edges. Tolerant of some wind.



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Lysimachia vulgaris

Yellow Loosestrife

A riparian and marginal aquatic rhizomatous perennial plant with opposite hairy oval leaves that occur in whorls of three or four around the stem. Can reach up to 1m in height. Terminal clusters of 5-petalled yellow flowers are produced during the summer months. Suited to pond edges.



© gailhampshire CC BY 2.0

Lythrum salicaria

Purple-loosestrife

A robust herbaceous perennial that can reach over 1m in height. It has narrow lanceolate opposite leaves that sometimes occur in whorls of 3. Terminal spikes of dense purple-red flowers appear in July and August. Leaves turn to shades of red and orange in autumn before falling. Favours damp conditions and shallow waters.



© Matthew Morgan CC

Mentha aquatica

Water Mint

A marginal aromatic aquatic or semi-aquatic perennial that can grow up to 90cm in height. Has opposite toothed leaves and a square stem. Produces spikes of tiny pink flowers in summer (July to September). Spreads by thin rhizomes. Suited to shallow water. Plant in baskets to contain spread.



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Menyanthes trifoliata

Bogbean

An attractive fast-growing rhizomatous aquatic plant (up to 0.5m in height) with olive-coloured trifoliate leaves that appear up over the surface of the water. Produces starry pinkish-white flowers with fringed petals from April to June. Suited to large ponds.



© Edwina Cole

Nuphar lutea

Yellow Water-lily

A beautiful long-lived fragrant deciduous rhizomatous aquatic plant with shiny green oval-shaped floating leaves, approx. 0.4m in diameter. Inconspicuous submerged leaves are also produced. Bright yellow cup-shaped flowers appear above the water surface from late May to early August. These are brandy-scented. Can live in waters up to 3m deep. Suited to large ponds.



Nymphaea alba

White water-lily

A deciduous rhizomatous aquatic plant with shiny green rounded floating leaves, often red-tinged beneath, approx. 0.3m in diameter. White slightly scented star-shaped flowers, with conspicuous yellow stamens, appear above the water surface from June to August. These are followed by submerged berry-like fruits. Can live in waters up to 3m deep. Suited to large ponds. Will not tolerate moving water.



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Typha latifolia

Bulrush

A striking tall marginal aquatic deciduous perennial which can reach up to 2.5m in height. Long narrow strap-like greyish-green leaves arise from rhizomes. Dark brown cylindrical flower spikes appear in July and August. Naturally filters water. Suited to large ponds.



© Daniel Cahen CC BY 4.0

Veronica beccabunga

Brooklime

A fleshy creeping marginal aquatic perennial, up to 10cm in height, with opposite oval leaves. Spreading stems root as they creep. Small bright blue flowers are produced in short spikes from May through to late summer. Can assist in keeping a pond algae-free due to its fast growth rate using surplus nutrients. Favours damp conditions and shallow waters.



© Mathew Robinson CC

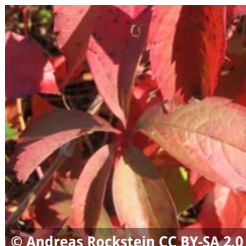


© Forest and Kim Starr CC BY 2.0

Lonicera japonica

Japanese Honeysuckle

Present in the wild in south of Ireland. Smothers and weakens trees and shrubs. Causes damage to surfaces and structures in urban settings. Obscures light. Can cause issues with commercial forestry activity.

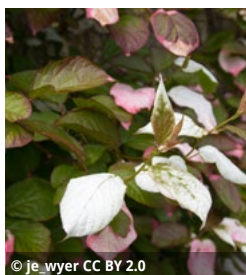


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Parthenocissus quinquefolia

Virginia-creeper

Present in the wild in Ireland in a few locations. Extensively used on old buildings in cities where it can cause damage to surfaces and structures. In the wild obscures light to vegetation which may kill host trees.



© je_wyer CC BY 2.0

Actinidia kolomikta

Kolomikta Vine

A fast-growing deciduous climber with attractive foliage. Can reach up to 8m in height. Its twining stems bear green ovate to heart-shaped leaves that develop silver and pink tips when mature. Small fragrant white flowers are produced in summer followed by kiwi-like fruit on the female plants in autumn. Grows best in a sheltered position.

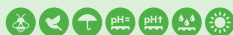


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Clematis armandi

Armand Clematis

A vigorous fragrant evergreen climber with dark glossy green trifoliate leaves. Creamy-white almond-scented star-shaped flowers appear in early spring, from March to April. Grows best in a sheltered position.

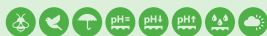


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Clematis Jackmanii

Jackman's Clematis

A vigorous deciduous climber with typical tripartite clematis leaves. Can reach up to 4m in height. Masses of striking flowers composed of four rich velvety violet-purple sepals, with cream centres, are produced from July to September. Grows best in a sheltered position.



Clanthus puniceus

Lobster Claw

A striking scrambling evergreen shrub with dark green pinnate leaves. Red clusters of pendulous claw-shaped flowers appear in spring and summer. Best grown in a sheltered position.

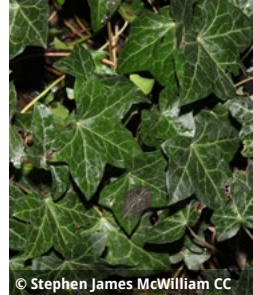


© Wendy Cutler CC BY 2.0

Hedera helix

Common Ivy

An evergreen woody climber which clings to walls and trees for support via small roots/specialised hairs. It can reach up to 30m in height. Produces three-to five-lobed dark green glossy leaves. Yellow green nectar-rich flowers appear from September to November in umbel clusters, followed by black berry-like fruits from November through to January. Tolerant of shade.



© Stephen James McWilliam CC

Hydrangea petiolaris

Climbing Hydrangea

A deciduous self-clinging climbing shrub with oval leaves which can reach up to 12m in height. Large white lacecap-style hydrangea flowers are produced in midsummer. Grows best in partial shade.



© Pavel Smirnov CC BY 4.0

Itea ilicifolia

Holly-leaved Sweetspire

An evergreen shrub that grows well as a wall shrub with glossy holly-like leaves. Can reach up to 5m in height. Produces long fragrant honey-scented racemes of small greenish-white flowers from mid to late summer. Grows best in a sheltered position.

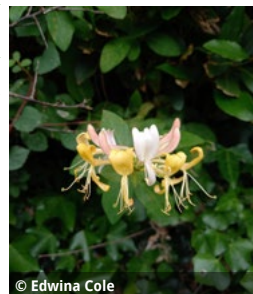


© Martín Vincente, M. CC BY 2.0

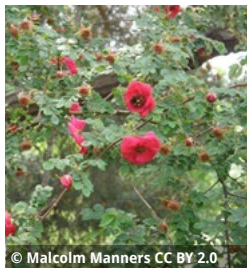
Lonicera periclymenum

Honeysuckle

Sweetly scented deciduous climber reaching heights of up to 10m with dark green opposite oval shaped leaves. Cream trumpet-like flowers, tinged with pink, are produced from June to September, which turn orange after pollination. These are followed in autumn by red berries. The scent from honeysuckle is strongest at night. Can aid in soil stabilisation.



© Edwina Cole



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Rosa moyesii

Moyes Rose

A deciduous scrambling shrub rose, with arching stems, that can be trained as a climber. It can reach up to 4m in height. It has small dark green leaves and bears single deep scarlet flowers in summer. These are followed by attractive pendulous red flask-shaped hips in autumn.

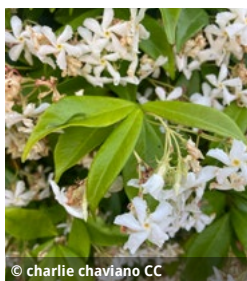


© Fran Gonzalez CC

Solanum laxum

Jasmine Nightshade

A semi-evergreen slightly-scented climber, with glossy green ovate leaves, that can reach up to 8m in height. Clusters of white/pale blue potato-like flowers with five petals and a pointed yellow centre, are produced from July to September. These are followed by small black fruits in autumn. Best grown in a sheltered position. Can be toxic to pets and horses.



© charlie chaviano CC

Trachelospermum jasminoides

Star Jasmine

A woody medium-sized evergreen climber with twining stems and glossy green oval leaves. Fragrant white jasmine-like flowers appear from June to August. These age to a cream colour. Leaves turn a deep bronze red in winter providing good winter colour. Needs protection from cold and drying winds.

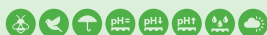


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Wisteria sinensis

Chinese Wisteria

A striking woody deciduous climber with twining stems and pinnate leaves. Pendulous racemes of fragrant lilac pea-like flowers appear in spring and early summer before the leaves emerge. Grows best in a sheltered position. Toxic to humans and pets.



*Impatiens glandulifera***Himalayan Balsam**

Present and established in the wild in Ireland along river banks and in damp habitats. Causes soil erosion, sedimentation issues and affects instream communities. Can increase the risk of flooding as large stands can impede the flow of water. Decreases both plant and invertebrate diversity.



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REGULATED INVASIVE SPECIES

Lamiumstrum galeobdolon subsp. *argentatum***Variegated Yellow Archangel**

Present and established in the wild in Ireland. Outcompetes native ground flora, dominating woodlands and hedgerows, reducing native plant species richness. Can alter soil properties.



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UNREGULATED INVASIVE SPECIES

*Achillea millefolium***Yarrow**

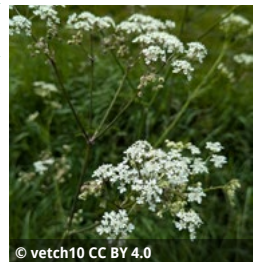
A strongly scented perennial herb with dark-green feathery fern-like foliage that can reach 1m in height. Clusters of small, daisy-like white flowers are borne in a flattened dome shaped flowerhead over a long period from June to November. Overwinters as a basal rosette. Drought tolerant.



© Marco Zaccaria Di Fraia CC BY 4.0

*Anthriscus sylvestris***Cow Parsley**

A tall robust biennial/perennial herb, up to 2m in height, with large deeply lobed leaves and hollow stems. Umbels of delicate green-white flowers are produced from July to September. These are followed by oval ridged seeds in autumn.



© vetch10 CC BY 4.0

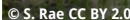
ALTERNATIVE SPECIES

*Astrantia major***Greater Masterwort**

A clump-forming herbaceous perennial, reaching up to 60cm in height, with mid-green 3 to 5 lobed leaves. Pincushion-like whitish-green flowers consisting of compact umbels of tiny flowers surrounded by a rosette of showy bracts appear in the summer months. Slug and snail resistant.



© Edwina Cole



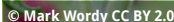
Harebell

A beautiful deciduous perennial with delicate flowers that can grow up to 30cm in height. Small rounded basal leaves form clumps from which tall flowering stems emerge in summer. These bear light blue bell-shaped flowers that hang in panicles from June to September.



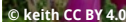
Common Knapweed

A slightly hairy perennial, up to 1m in height, with entire or partially lobed leaves. Thistle-like purple flower heads with black/brown bracts appear from July to September. Tolerant of cold exposed sites.



Purple Plume Thistle

A clump-forming herbaceous perennial that can reach over 1m in height. Thistle-like spiny dark green leaves, with hairy undersides, appear in spring, followed by nectar-rich deep purple thistle-like flowers from early to mid-summer.



Angel's Fishing-rod

An attractive evergreen clump-forming perennial with long narrow grass-like leaves. It bears long arching stems of pendular pink bell-shaped flowers from June through to August. Best grown in a sheltered position. Resistant to rabbit grazing.



Foxglove

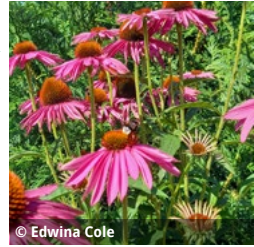
A tall biennial herb (up to 1.5m in height) with a basal rosette of hairy oval leaves. A stunning flowering spike of tubular purple flowers emerges in the second year from June to August. Each individual flower has a spotted interior. Copious amounts of seeds are produced in autumn. Toxic to humans and animals if ingested.



Echinacea purpurea

Purple Coneflower

An attractive clump-forming herbaceous perennial with daisy-like flowers that can reach up to 1.5m in height. Lance-shaped basal leaves appear in spring, followed by daisy-like flowers with conical centres and purple-pink drooping ray florets from June to September.

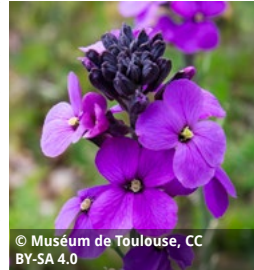


© Edwina Cole

Erysimum linifolium 'Bowles's Mauve'

Perennial Wallflower 'Bowles's Mauve'

An evergreen woody-stemmed perennial reaching up to 75cm in height, with narrow grey-green leaves. Spires of mauve flowers are produced from March through to December, sometimes all year round.



© Muséum de Toulouse, CC BY-SA 4.0

Eupatorium maculatum 'Atropurpureum Group'

Joe-Pye Weed

A large clump-forming herbaceous perennial that can reach up to 2.5m in height. Whorls of dark green leaves surround purple stems which bear clusters of small rose-purple flowers in late summer and autumn. These develop into fluffy seedheads which last into the winter. Best grown in moist to wet soil.

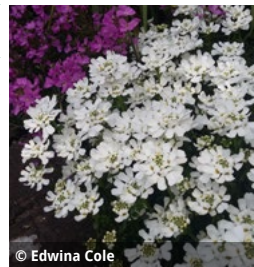


© Under the same moon CC BY 2.0

Iberis sempervirens

Perennial Candytuft

A low-growing spreading evergreen herbaceous perennial, up to 30cm in height, with narrow dark green leaves. Dense heads of white fragrant flowers are produced in spring.



© Edwina Cole

Knautia arvensis

Field Scabious

An attractive tall perennial, reaching up to 1.5m in height, with hairy green leaves that form a rosette, and wiry stems. The leaves can be simple or lobed. Lilac-blue pincushion-like flowerheads are produced from July to September. These are composed of larger outer flowers and smaller inner flowers with protruding stamens. Tolerant of limited exposure.



© Edwina Cole



© Scott Shanks CC

Leucanthemum vulgare

Oxeye Daisy

A tall clump-forming robust rhizomatous perennial that can reach up to 1m in height. Toothed spoon-shaped dark green basal leaves are produced in spring followed by daisy-like flower heads which are predominately white with yellow centres. These appear from June to August. Prefers nutrient-poor soils.



© HQ Flower Guide CC BY-SA 2.0

Ligularia przewalskii

Przewalski's Leopardplant

A striking clump-forming herbaceous perennial that can reach up to 2m in height. Large lobed dark green leaves appear in spring followed by tall dark stems of yellow daisy-like flowerheads in columns from June to August. Grows best in a sheltered position. Susceptible to slugs and snails.

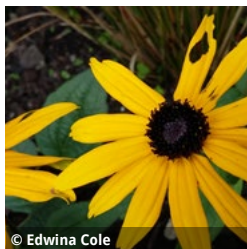


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Liriope muscari

Lilyturf

An evergreen clump-forming herbaceous perennial with arching grass-like dark green leaves. Can reach up to 30cm in height. Masses of blue-purple flower spikes appear in autumn, from August through to November, and are followed by black berries. Tolerant of drought.



© Edwina Cole

Rudbeckia fulgida var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm'

Coneflower 'Goldsturm'

A compact clump-forming herbaceous perennial that can reach up to 60cm in height. Ovate green leaves appear in spring. Deep yellow daisy-like flowers with dark brown centres appear from August through to October. Can tolerate light shade.



© Shutterstock

Salvia nemorosa 'Ostfriesland' and other cultivars

Balkan Clary 'Ostfriesland'

A compact clump-forming herbaceous perennial with narrowly ovate aromatic leaves. Spikes of violet-blue hooded flowers with pink bracts are produced from June through to September. Once established it is drought tolerant.



*Silene dioica***Red Campion**

An attractive hairy clump-forming perennial with downy oval opposite leaves that can reach up to 1m in height. Pink-red flowers composed of five deeply-notched petals appear from April to August. These are followed by seed capsules with toothed edges. Will not tolerate waterlogged soils. Slug resistant.

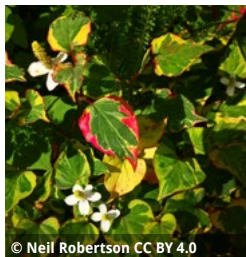
*Succisa pratensis***Devil's-bit Scabious**

A clump-forming perennial, reaching up to 1m in height, with oval slender green leaves that form a rosette. Light purple pincushion-like flowerheads are produced from July to October on long stalks. Will tolerate limited exposure.

*Veronicastrum virginicum***Culver's Root**

A tall herbaceous clump-forming perennial reaching up to 2m in height. Stems with whorled narrow pointed leaves emerge in spring which are topped with long spikes of tiny white flowers in summer.



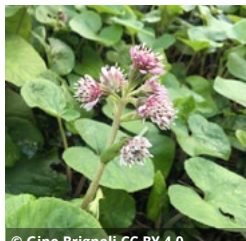


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Houttuynia cordata

Chameleon Plant

Present in the wild in Ireland. Has the potential to displace native species in wetland habitats. Can be very persistent and invasive.



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Petasites pyrenaicus

Winter Heliotrope

Widespread and established in the wild in Ireland. Forms extensive colonies and outcompetes native flora by exclusion of light, decreasing biodiversity. Mulch of dead leaves suppresses native plant species germination. Shallow rhizome growth on riverbanks can lead to increase soil erosion.

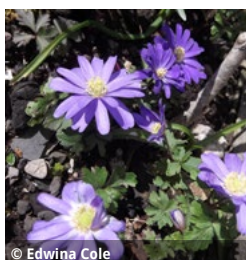


© anguspritchard CC BY 4.0

Ajuga reptans

Bugle

A small hardy evergreen mat-forming perennial with dark green spoon-shaped leaves. Spikes of lavender-violet 2-lipped flowers are produced in spring and early summer.



© Edwina Cole

Anemone blanda

Winter Windflower

A small creeping herbaceous perennial, up to 15cm in height, with dark green segmented leaves that arise from a rhizome in early spring. Daisy-like violet blue, pink or white flowers appear above the leaves in March and April.



© Edwina Cole

Fragaria vesca

Wild Strawberry

A small perennial with slender above-ground runners that form new plants at each node. Can reach approx. 40cm in height. Rosettes of bright green leaves, each composed of 3 toothed leaflets, are produced in spring, followed by small five-petalled white flowers in spring and summer. These develop into small red fruits (approx. 1cm in diameter) and are ripe once they turn dark red. The foliage may remain green over winter in mild areas.



*Genista pilosa***Hairy Greenweed**

A deciduous prostrate mat-forming spreading shrub that can reach up to 50cm in height. Small oval leaves with downy undersides are produced in spring followed by yellow pea-like flowers in early summer. These develop into small black pods. Drought tolerant.



© William Stephens CC BY 4.0

*Geranium sanguineum***Bloody Crane's-bill**

A bushy deciduous perennial with woody rhizomatous roots. Can grow up to 20cm in height. Deeply lobed circular shaped leaves appear in spring, followed from June to August with five-petalled magenta-coloured flowers. These develop into long pointed dry somewhat hairy fruits. Drought tolerant. Will not tolerate waterlogged soils. Slug and rabbit resistant.



© Jon Martin CC BY 4.0

Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Nigrescens'**Black Lilyturf**

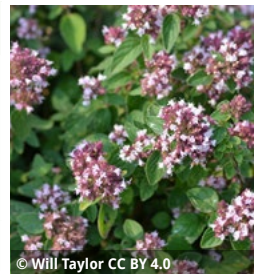
An evergreen clump-forming grass-like perennial with inky black purple strap-like leaves. Can reach up to 0.5m in height. Spikes of small pink-purple flowers are produced in summer followed by small black berries. Grows best in a sheltered position.



© Edwina Cole

*Origanum vulgare***Wild Marjoram**

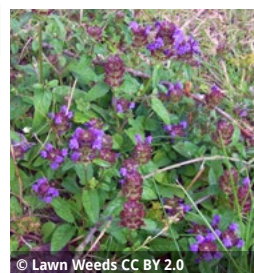
A perennial herb (up to 70cm in height) with small oval opposite aromatic leaves. Small pink 2-lipped flowers are produced from July to September.



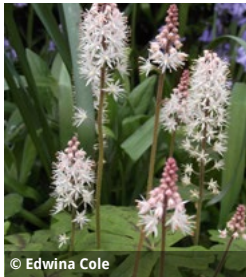
© Will Taylor CC BY 4.0

*Prunella vulgaris***Selfheal**

A semi-evergreen creeping low-growing perennial, up to 30cm in height, with oblong opposite leaves and rooting stems. Short dense spikes of whorled purple flowers are produced from June to September. Can tolerate shade and moderate levels of trampling.



© Lawn Weeds CC BY 2.0

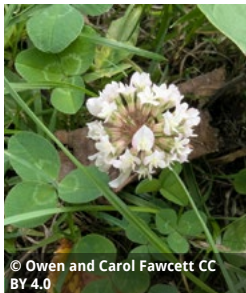


© Edwina Cole

Tiarella cordifolia

Foam Flower

A rhizomatous clump-forming herbaceous perennial to 30 cm in height, with 3 to 5-lobed, broadly ovate to heart-shaped leaves becoming reddish-bronze in autumn. Erect stems bearing racemes of small star-shaped creamy-white flowers appear in summer. Resistant to rabbit grazing.



© Owen and Carol Fawcett CC BY 4.0

Trifolium repens

White Clover

A creeping mat-forming perennial with trifoliate leaves. The stems root at the leaf nodes. White flowerheads, composed of many small tubular flowers, are produced in spring and summer. Sometimes these are tinged with pink or cream. Nitrogen fixing bacteria in the roots allow it to fix nitrogen from the atmosphere enriching the soil. Drought resistant.



© Edwina Cole

Viola odorata

Sweet Violet

A small herbaceous mat-forming perennial with semi-evergreen heart-shaped leaves. Fragrant deep violet or pure white flowers appear in late winter and early spring.



Also suitable for Ground Cover see

<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Shrubs	Page 10
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Climber	Page 19
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	Herbaceous	Page 23
<i>Liriope muscari</i>	Herbaceous	Page 24
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Coastal Gardens	Page 29
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Bulbs	Page 34

*Hippophae rhamnoides***Sea Buckthorn**

Present in the wild along coasts in Ireland. Forms extensive dense stands that outcompete native plant species, reduces local floral biodiversity and changes the composition and balance of the invertebrate fauna. Alters the soil nutrient status.



© Thierry Arbault CC BY 4.0

REGULATED INVASIVE SPECIES

*Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora***Montbretia**

Widespread and established in the wild in Ireland. Forms dense colonies which outcompete and exclude native plant species and prevent them from regenerating. In some instances it may increase the risk of riverbank collapse.



© Dylan Mahood CC

UNREGULATED INVASIVE SPECIES

*Armeria maritima***Thrift**

A clump forming evergreen perennial with dark green thin needle-like leaves. Pink, deep red or white flowers are produced in compact clusters, on stems up to 20cm in height, from spring through to summer. Drought tolerant.



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*Callistemon citrinus***Crimson Bottlebrush**

An attractive evergreen bushy shrub with dark green lanceolate aromatic leaves (when crushed). It can reach up to 5m in height. Crimson-red flower spikes are produced at the tips of branches in summer. Grows best in a sheltered position. Resistant to drought.



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ALTERNATIVE SPECIES

*Chamaerops humilis***European Fan Palm**

A small hardy evergreen palm, often multi-stemmed, with fan-shaped leaves. Can reach up to 3.5m in height. The large rounded leaves are deeply cut into narrow leaflets. Stiff panicles of small yellow flowers only appear on mature plants in summer. Grows best in a sheltered position. Avoid midday and afternoon full sun.



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Cistus x purpureus

Purple-flowered Rock Rose

A medium-sized bushy evergreen shrub with aromatic narrow wrinkled leaves. Purple-pink 5-petalled flowers, with a deep red blotch at the centre, appear throughout the summer. Grows best in a sheltered position. Resistant to drought.



Crambe maritima

Sea-kale

A vigorous herbaceous perennial that can reach up to 0.75m in height. It has large pale bluish-green wavy-edged leaves and produces clusters of small scented white flowers from June to August. These are followed by spherical fruits. Tolerant of poor soil and salt. Requires shelter from strong winds.



Cytisus scoparius

Broom

An attractive deciduous shrub which can grow up to 3m in height. It has green shoots with small trifoliate leaves. Yellow pea-like flowers are produced in mid-summer followed by seeds in miniature pea pods which turn black when ripe. Fixes nitrogen in the soil.



Daucus carota

Wild Carrot

A hardy biennial with a significant tap-root. Can reach up to 0.75m when in flower. Leaves are triangular in shape and tripinnate divided. From midsummer to autumn creamy-white flowers are borne in umbels, with the central floret sometimes dark red in colour. After flowering the flowerhead turns in on itself and forms small bristly seeds. Tolerant of low fertility soils.



Eryngium maritimum

Sea-holly

A prickly thistle-like herbaceous bushy perennial reaching up to 60cm in height. Blue-green waxy stiff and spiny leaves are produced which are semi-evergreen. Blue thistle-like flower heads with a collar of spiky bracts are produced from July to September. Will not tolerate shade. Drought tolerant.



*Fatsia japonica***Fatsia**

A striking evergreen shrub that can reach up to 3m in height. Large dark green glossy palmately-lobed leaves are produced on spreading stems. Clusters of small white rounded flower heads appear in October, followed by small black fruits.



© Nick Butcher CC BY 4.0

*Glaucium flavum***Yellow Horned-poppy**

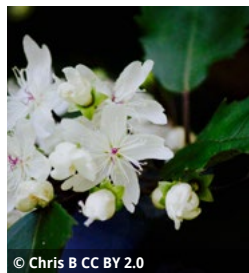
A short-lived clump-forming perennial, reaching up to 1m in height, with blue-green hairy deeply-lobed leaves that form a rosette. Bright orange-yellow flowers, each with 4 petals, are produced on tall branched stems from June to August, followed by long narrow seed pods that can reach 30cm in length. Plant exudes yellow latex once crushed. Drought tolerant.



© Liam Lysaght CC BY 2.0

*Hoheria sexstylosa***Ribbonwood**

A small evergreen tree with a columnar habit that can reach up to 4m in height. Leaves are glossy green, narrowly ovate and deeply toothed. Large amounts of white fragrant five-petalled flowers are produced in late July and August. Grows best in a sheltered position.



© Chris B CC BY 2.0

*Lotus corniculatus***Common Bird's-foot-trefoil**

A small herbaceous perennial with a bushy habit, reaching up to 40cm in height. Leaves are composed of 5 oval leaflets. Yellow pea-like flowers are produced from May to August which are followed by long thin seed pods, held in a 'bird's foot' shape, in autumn. Tolerant of salt and drought.



© Edwina Cole

*Phoenix canariensis***Canary Palm**

An evergreen tree-like palm that can reach up to 15m in height. Pinnate leaves with linear leaflets grow from the crown of the pineapple-like trunk and can be up to 5m in length. Pendulous creamy-yellow flowers appear in summer, followed by reddish fruits. Grows best in a sheltered position.



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Silene uniflora

Sea Campion

A semi-evergreen low-growing mat-forming perennial with lance-shaped opposite grey-green leaves that reaches a height of only 15cm. White flowers with deeply-cut notched petals and an inflated calyx are produced from June to August.

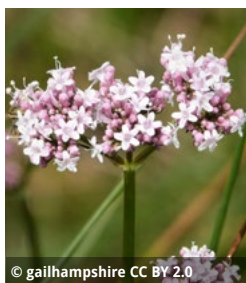


© Luke Lythgoe CC

Tripolium pannonicum

Sea Aster

A tall hairless fleshy perennial that can reach up to 1m in height. The fleshy leaves are untoothed and lanceolate in shape and emerge in spring. Purple-blue daisy like flowers (up to 2cm in diameter) with yellow centres appear from July to October. Drought tolerant once established. Salt tolerant. Helps prevent coastal erosion.



© gailhampshire CC BY 2.0

Valeriana officinalis

Common Valerian

A clump-forming perennial with bright green pinnate leaves of 9-13 toothed leaflets. Can reach up to 1.5m in height. Small pink or white scented flowers are borne in rounded clusters at the top of the stems from May to August. Grows best in a sheltered position.



© Esteban Poveda CC BY 4.0

Vallea stipularis

Pera-caspi

An unusual slow-growing evergreen tree with a spreading habit. Can reach up to 5m in height. Glossy green heart-shaped leaves are arranged spirally on the twigs. Deep pink bell-shaped flowers are produced from late spring into autumn. Grows best in a sheltered position as not reliably hardy.



Also suitable for Coastal Gardens see

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Herbaceous	Page 21
<i>Dierama pulcherrium</i>	Herbaceous	Page 22
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Herbaceous	Page 22
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> var. <i>sullivantii</i> 'Goldsturm'	Herbaceous	Page 24
<i>Genista pilosa</i>	Ground Cover	Page 27
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<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Ornamental Grasses & Foliage	Page 42
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Ornamental Grasses & Foliage	Page 43
<i>Stipa gigantea</i>	Ornamental Grasses & Foliage	Page 43
<i>Festuca glauca</i> 'Elijah Blue'	Green Roofs & Walls	Page 44
<i>Phlomis russeliana</i>	Urban Landscapes	Page 47
<i>Salvia rosmarinus</i>	Urban Landscapes	Page 47



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Hyacinthoides hispanica

Spanish Bluebell

Common in the wild in Ireland. Hybridises with the local native Bluebell and can then outcompete it, reducing biodiversity. Also leads to genetic introgression.



© Jacek Pietruszewski CC BY 4.0

Allium triquetrum

Three-cornered Leek

Widespread and established in Ireland. Grows in dense communities, depleting soil resources and outcompeting native species.



© Sharon Smith CC BY 4.0

Allium schoenoprasum

Chives

A small bulbous perennial, up to 30cm in height, with narrow hollow leaves that emerge in spring, and are onion-scented when crushed. Purple bell-shaped flowers are borne in umbels in summer. Has insect-repelling properties.



© Olive Titus CC BY 2.0

Allium tuberosum

Chinese Chives

A clump-forming bulbous perennial, up to 50cm in height, with flat narrow leaves that have a mild garlic scent when crushed. White star-shaped flowers are borne in umbels in July and August.



© Edwina Cole

Anemone nemorosa

Wood Anemone

A small creeping herbaceous perennial (up to 20cm in height) that arises from a rhizome in early spring. It has deeply cut leaves and solitary delicate white flowers composed of 6-7 sepals which appear from March to May.



Camassia leichtlinii

Quamash

A tall striking bulbous perennial, with long narrow channelled leaves. It can reach almost 1m in height. Flowers of loose spires of white, blue or pale pink star-shaped flowers (depending on the variety) appear in late spring and early summer. Will tolerate heavy, moist soils. Grows best in a sheltered position.

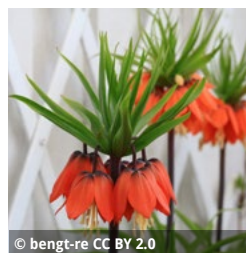


© Alison Northup CC

Fritillaria imperialis

Crown Imperial

A striking robust bulbous perennial, up to 1.5m in height, with whorled lance-shaped leaves. In April and May umbels of pendent bell-shaped orange or yellow flowers are produced beneath a whorl of bracts, which can emit a strong foxy odour. Pollination by Blue tits observed in the UK.

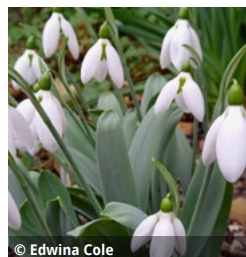


© bengt-re CC BY 2.0

Galanthus elwesii

Greater Snowdrop

A small winter-flowering bulbous perennial with grey/green strap-shaped leaves that fold inside the other. In late winter single white nodding flowers of outer and inner petals appear, the latter with green marks which sometimes fuse together.



© Edwina Cole

Galtonia candicans

Summer Hyacinth

A summer flowering bulbous perennial with strap-shaped grey-green leaves. Can reach up to 1m in height. Fragrant white bell-shaped flowers hang from upright stems in late summer. Grows best in a sheltered position.



© Martín Vicente, M. CC BY 2.0

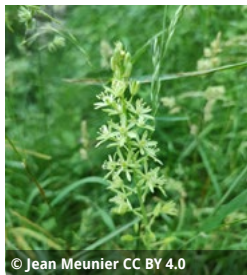
Nerine bowdenii

Bowden Lily

An autumn-flowering bulbous perennial producing lily-like pink flowers with recurved wavy petals from September to November. Can reach up to 0.5m in height. Strap-shaped leaves appear after flowering. Grows best in a sheltered position.



© katuchka CC BY 4.0



© Jean Meunier CC BY 4.0

Ornithogalum pyrenaicum

Spiked Star-of-Bethlehem

A clump-forming bulbous perennial with lance-shaped leaves. Can reach up to 60cm in height. Tall spikes of greenish-white star-shaped flowers appear in June and July. This coincides with the dieback of foliage.

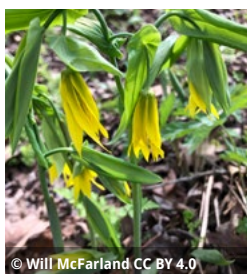


© Edwina Cole

Tulbaghia violacea

Society Garlic

A clump-forming bulbous perennial, up to 50cm in height, with strapped-shaped leaves that smell of garlic when crushed. Umbels of fragrant pale purple star-shaped flowers on tall stems appear from June through to October.



© Will McFarland CC BY 4.0

Uvularia grandiflora

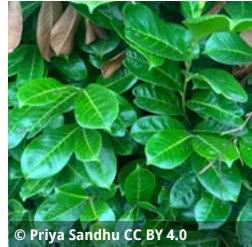
Large-flowered Bellwort

A creeping rhizomatous/bulbous perennial, up to 75cm in height, with wiry arching stems alternately wrapped in oblong leaves. Clusters of nodding narrow yellow lily-like flowers appear in late spring.



*Prunus laurocerasus***Cherry Laurel**

Widespread and established in the wild in Ireland. Casts dense shade outcompeting local species and preventing their regeneration. Releases toxins that alter soil chemistry and deter herbivores.



© Priya Sandhu CC BY 4.0

UNREGULATED INVASIVE SPECIES

*Symphoricarpos albus***Snowberry**

Widespread and established in the wild in Ireland. Forms dense thickets, via vigorous suckering, outcompeting native plants and decreasing biodiversity. Berries toxic to humans.

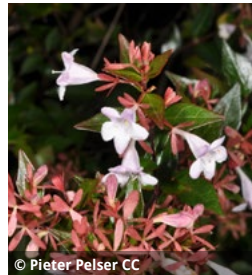


© Gerry van Tonder CC BY 4.0

UNREGULATED INVASIVE SPECIES

*Abelia x grandiflora***Glossy Abelia**

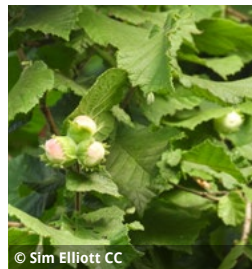
An evergreen shrub with shiny green leaves that can reach up to 3m in height. Produces abundant white and pink scented tubular flowers from June to October. These are followed by reddish bracts on pink-purple foliage in autumn. Best grown in a sheltered position. Resistant to drought.



© Pieter Pelsers CC

*Corylus avellana***Hazel**

A large shrub or small tree which can reach up to 12m if not coppiced. Produces yellow male catkins which hang in clusters from mid-February, followed by round to oval doubly toothed leaves which are hairy underneath and pointed at the tip. The tiny female flowers mature into nuts surrounded by a woody shell. Shade tolerant.



© Sim Elliott CC

ALTERNATIVE SPECIES

*Crataegus monogyna***Hawthorn**

A thorny deciduous tree which can reach up to 8m in height. Deeply lobed dark green triangular leaves appear in spring. Fragrant white flowers follow in late spring, followed by glossy dark red fruit in autumn. Trained as a hedge it will reach between 1.5 and 3m in height.



© Andreas Rockstein CC BY-SA 2.0



© Charles Joynson CC

Euonymus europaeus

Spindle

Vigorous shrub/small deciduous tree with green stems, that can reach up to 4m in height. Its leaves are slightly waxy in texture and shiny, with tiny teeth along the edges. Clusters of flowers, each containing four petals, are produced in May and June. These develop in late autumn and early winter into bright pink capsules containing orange seeds. Leaves turn an attractive russet colour in autumn. Tolerant of inland exposure.



© Jannik Stokholm CC BY 4.0

Fagus sylvatica

Beech

A large deciduous tree with a huge crown that can grow up to 40m in height. Leaves appear in spring and have a wavy edge, are stalked, oval and pointed at the tip. Flowers of male catkins and female flowers are produced in April and May. 3 angled nut fruits, housed in a woody cup follow in autumn. Trained as a hedge it creates a dense screen, and holds its dry leaves throughout the winter.



© Andrew Conboy CC BY 4.0

Ilex crenata

Japanese Holly

A slow-growing evergreen shrub with small glossy convex leaves. Can reach up to 5m in height. Small cream flowers appear in May and June, followed by small shiny black berries in autumn. Tolerates hard clipping very well. A good alternative to *Buxus sempervirens* (Box). Toxic to humans and pets.



© Jack Alcorn CC BY 4.0

Malus domestica

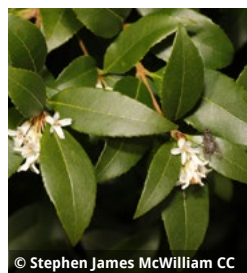
Apple

A small deciduous tree that can reach up to 4m in height. Toothed green leaves and downy young shoots are produced in spring, along with fragrant white to pink flowers. Large fruits develop in autumn. Grows best in a sheltered position.



*Osmanthus x burkwoodii***Burkwood Osmanthus**

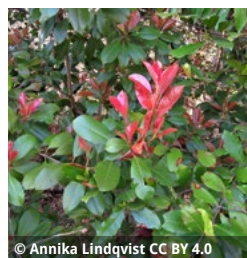
A slow-growing evergreen shrub with a bushy habit and small oval leaves. Can reach up to 3m in height. Clusters of fragrant small tubular white flowers appear in April and May. Suitable for a large hedge. Tolerates some coastal exposure.



© Stephen James McWilliam CC

Photinia x fraseri 'Red Robin'**Christmas Berry 'Red Robin'**

An evergreen shrub that can reach up to 6m in height. It has glossy green elliptical leaves, with red-tinted young leaves. Creamy-white flowers appear in clusters in spring if not pruned. Can be clipped to form a neat hedge. Requires a semi-sheltered position.



© Annika Lindqvist CC BY 4.0

*Prunus spinosa***Blackthorn**

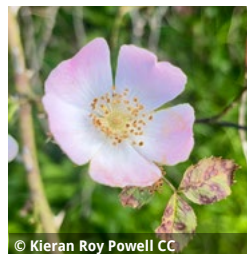
A spiny small deciduous tree (up to 7m) that bears dense clusters of small white flowers very early in the year before the leaves emerge. Dark green ovate leaves appear after flowering. Blue/black sloes develop in autumn. Tolerant of heavy and sandy soils. Salt tolerant. Toxic to pets. Trained as a hedge it makes an ideal barrier against stock/people due to dense and thorny nature.



© Joss Carr CC BY 4.0

*Rosa canina***Dog Rose**

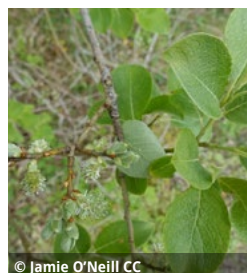
A beautiful thorny deciduous climbing shrub which can grow up to 3m if supported. Soft pink fragrant flowers, with prominent yellow stamens, are produced from June through to August. Red ovoid hips develop in autumn.



© Kieran Roy Powell CC

*Salix caprea***Goat Willow**

A long-lived deciduous tree that can reach up to 10m in height. Male and female catkins are produced on separate trees in early spring, followed by pointed tipped oval leaves that are coated in greyish down beneath. A fast-growing species that is suitable for hedges. Salt tolerant.



© Jamie O'Neill CC



Sambucus nigra

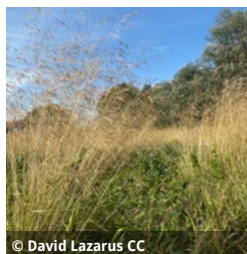
Elder

A small deciduous tree (up to 15m) with pinnate leaves and corky bark. Sprays of fragrant creamy-white flowers appear in spring followed by bunches of dark purple berries in autumn. Resistant to rabbit grazing.



Also suitable for Hedging see

<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Trees	Page 7
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Trees	Page 9



© David Lazarus CC

Deschampsia cespitosa subsp. *cespitosa*

Tufted Hair-grass

An evergreen tufted perennial grass which can reach up to 1.5m in height when flowering. Tough coarse narrow dark green leaves form tussocks from which tall feathery panicles of silver-tinted purple flowerheads appear from June to August. Seedheads persist in to winter.



© Peggy A. Lopipero-Langmo CC BY 2.0

Festuca glauca

Blue Fescue

A small evergreen glaucous clump-forming perennial grass reaching only 25cm in height. Stiff thread-like blue leaves form small cushions, from which blue flowering spikes appear in early summer. Resistant to drought.



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Hakonechloa macra

Japanese Forest Grass

A deciduous clump-forming perennial grass with arching narrow bright green leaves. Can reach up to 40cm in height. Arching sprays of green oat-like spikelets emerge in mid to late summer. Leaves turn a copper colour in autumn and can persist into winter.



© Scott Shanks CC

Luzula sylvatica

Great Wood-rush

An evergreen clump-forming perennial grass that can reach up to 80cm in height. Flat linear leaves with hairy edges form substantial clumps and can persist into winter. Open panicles of brown flowers appear in May and June.



© ffy062 CC BY 4.0

Miscanthus sinensis

Chinese Silver-grass

A tall deciduous clump-forming perennial grass that can reach up to 3m in height. It has arching linear leaves with a white mid-rib. Large feathery plumes of flowers are produced in late summer and autumn.



Miscanthus x longiberbis

Giant Silver-grass

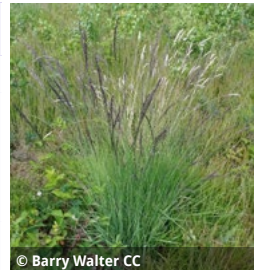
A tall deciduous clump-forming perennial grass that can reach up to 4m in height. It has upright stems with long pendulous linear leaves with a silver-white mid-rib. Large long feathery pink plumes of flowers are produced in late summer and autumn and remain on the plant over winter.



Molinia caerulea

Purple Moor-grass

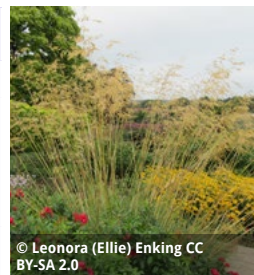
A tufted deciduous perennial grass (up to 1.2m in height) with bright green erect leaves. Tall arching stems of tiny dark purple spikelets appear from July to September. Leaves turn attractive orange and yellow colours in autumn.



Stipa gigantea

Giant Oat Grass

A large tufted evergreen grass with arching leaves reaching up to 2.5m in height. Long-stemmed panicles of oat-like flowers appear from mid-summer and turn gold in autumn. Seedheads persist into winter. Salt tolerant. Drought resistant.



Also suitable for Ornamental Grasses & Foliage see

<i>Liriope muscari</i>	Herbaceous	Page 24
<i>Ophiopogon planiscapus</i> 'Nigrescens'	Ground Cover	Page 27
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> 'Goldtau'	Tropical Foliage Style	Page 53



© Edwina Cole

Carpobrotus edulis

Hottentot-fig

First recorded in Ireland in 1915, it is now occasional on the entire east coast from Antrim to West Cork. Forms dense mats which displace the native flora, and also increases nitrogen and organic carbon in the soil, changing its nutrient dynamics and acidity.



© Andy Jordan CC BY 4.0

Disphyma crassifolium

Purple Dewplant

Present in one location in Co. Down, it roots form dense mats and outcompete the native flora, reducing diversity and available food for native invertebrates.



© K M CC BY 2.0

Cotula hispida

Little Golden Buttons

A small evergreen perennial reaching only 10cm in height. Finely divided silver-grey feathery leaves form a cushion from which small yellow flowers appear on wiry stems from May through to September. Resistant to drought.



© Katrin Simon CC BY 4.0

Euphorbia epithymoides

Cushion Spurge

A compact herbaceous perennial, reaching up to 45cm in height, with mid-green lance-shaped leaves. Bright yellow star-shaped flowers appear from March to May. In autumn the foliage turns a striking bronze colour. Like all Euphorbias its sap is a skin irritant.



© daryl mitchell CC BY-SA 2.0

Festuca glauca 'Elijah Blue' or other cultivars

Blue Fescue 'Elijah Blue'

A small evergreen glaucous clump-forming perennial grass reaching only 25cm in height. Stiff needle-like silvery blue leaves form small cushions, from which blue-green flowering spikes appear in late spring and early summer. Resistant to drought, salt and wind.





Chinese Tallow Tree

Not recorded in the wild in Ireland. Forms dense stands that outcompete native species and prevent their regeneration. Impedes natural habitat succession. Toxic to humans and cattle.



African-lily

A striking clump-forming evergreen herbaceous perennial with green strap-like leaves. Upright stems appear from June to August bearing globular heads of tubular cobalt blue flowers. Resistant to drought. Grows best in a sheltered position.



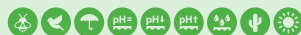
Silverbush

A compact bushy evergreen shrub with oblong leaves covered in silky silver-grey hairs. Can reach up to 90cm in height. White trumpet-shaped flowers with a central pink stripe appear from April to June. Tolerant of drought. Grows best in a sheltered position.



Winter Heath

A small low-growing evergreen shrub only reaching approx. 20cm in height. It has fine needle-like leaves. Spikes of small pink slender bell-shaped flowers appear in late winter and spring.



Erica x darleyensis

Darley Dale Heath

A low-growing evergreen shrub only reaching approx. 50cm in height. It has fine needle-like leaves. Spikes of lilac-pink urn-shaped flowers appear in late winter and spring.

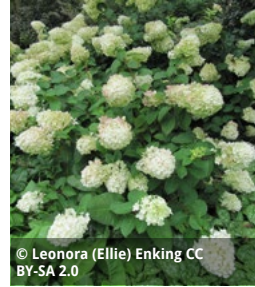


© Delaware Master Gardeners
CC BY 2.0

Hydrangea paniculata

Panicle Hydrangea

A striking deciduous woody shrub which can reach up to 3m in height. Opposite pairs of dark green leaves appear in spring, followed by large conical cream-coloured flowerheads of numerous creamy-white and pinkish-white florets in late summer and early autumn.



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Juniperus communis

Common Juniper

An evergreen small shrub (up to 10m height) with narrow, sharply pointed grey-green aromatic leaves. Female cones green, fleshy and berry-like which can take 2-3 years to mature into blue-black fruits. Resistant to drought.



© Joan Simon CC BY-SA 2.0

Phlomis russeliana

Turkish Sage

A large hairy clump-forming perennial with sage-like leaves reaching up to 1m in height. Grey-green heart-shaped leaves are rough in texture. Stems with whorls of soft-yellow sage-like flowers appear from May through to July, followed by seed-heads that turn brown and persist through the winter. Drought tolerant. Rabbit resistant.



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Salvia rosmarinus

Rosemary

A bushy evergreen shrub reaching up to 1.5m in height. Dark green narrow linear leaves, with a felty underside, are highly aromatic. Pale violet-blue and white flowers appear in spring and summer. Tolerant of drought and coastal exposure.



© Donald Davesne CC BY 4.0



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Sarcococca hookeriana

Sweet Box

A small evergreen shrub, reaching up to 1.5m in height, with bright green oval to lance-shaped leaves. Clusters of scented creamy-white flowers appear in winter followed by red berries in summer. These turn black in autumn. Tolerant of atmospheric pollution.



Also suitable for Urban Landscapes see

<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Herbaceous	Page 23
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	Herbaceous	Page 23
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> var. <i>sullivantii</i> 'Goldsturm'	Herbaceous	Page 24
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Ground Cover	Page 27
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Coastal Gardens	Page 29

*Cenchrus setaceus***Crimson Fountaingrass**

Not recorded in the wild in Ireland. Forms dense thickets that outcompete native species. Very inflammable, increasing the intensity and spread of fires.

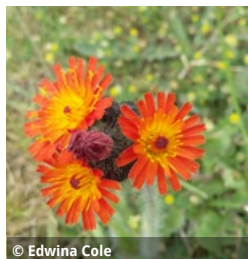


© Forest and Kim Starr CC BY 2.0

REGULATED INVASIVE SPECIES

*Pilosella aurantiaca***Fox-and-Cubs**

Widespread in the wild in Ireland. Forms dense mats that outcompete native species. Releases chemicals that inhibit the growth of surrounding plants, preventing native species regeneration. Pollen transferred to other species kills their embryos, stopping their competitors from producing seeds. Has the potential to be more invasive with climate change.



© Edwina Cole

UNREGULATED INVASIVE SPECIES

*Jasione montana***Sheep's-bit**

A small ground-hugging tufted biennial plant (up to 20cm in height) with a rosette of narrow pointed toothed leaves. Small blue flowers are produced in early summer at the top of a slender stem in pincushion-like spherical heads.



© Declan McCabe CC BY 4.0

*Lavandula angustifolia***English Lavender**

A compact evergreen bush-forming shrub (up to 1m in height) with narrow aromatic silvery-grey leaves. Dense spikes of fragrant purple flowers are produced in summer. Grows best in a sheltered position.



© Flavien Saboureau CC BY 4.0

ALTERNATIVE SPECIES

*Primula veris***Cowslip**

A semi-evergreen herbaceous perennial (up to 25cm in height) with a basal rosette of oval hairy, wrinkled leaves. A stalk bearing nodding umbels of bell-shaped fragrant yellow flowers, often tinged with orange, appears in April and May. Tolerant of some exposure.



© Simon Colenutt CC BY 4.0



© Edwina Cole

Primula vulgaris

Primrose

A semi-evergreen perennial herb (up to 20cm in height) with a basal rosette of tongue-shaped, wrinkled leaves. Sweetly scented pale-yellow flowers, 2.5-3.5cm in diameter, are produced from March to May. Grows best in a sheltered position.



© James Freshney Photography
CC BY 2.0

Salvia 'Hot Lips'

'Hot Lips'

A compact evergreen scented shrubby perennial, reaching up to 1m in height, with small ovate aromatic leaves. Bicoloured white and red sage-type flowers are produced in terminal racemes from June to October until the first frosts. Grows best in a sheltered position.



© Shutterstock

Salvia microphylla

Baby Sage

An evergreen scented shrub, reaching up to 90cm in height, with small ovate aromatic leaves. Magenta pink sage-type flowers are produced in terminal racemes from June to October until the first frosts. Grows best in a sheltered position. Drought tolerant.



© Thierry Arbault CC BY 4.0

Saxifraga spathularis

St Patrick's-cabbage

A small evergreen perennial with basal rosettes of spoon-shaped fleshy toothed leaves. White star-shaped flowers are borne in clusters from May to August on leafless stems that can reach 30cm in height. Flowers often have red spots on the petals.



Scabiosa columbaria 'Butterfly Blue' or other cultivars

Scabious

A compact clump-forming herbaceous perennial reaching up to 40cm in height. The green ferny leaves form a rounded mound. Large numbers of purple-blue pincushion-like flowers are produced from June to late autumn. Drought resistant.



ALTERNATIVE SPECIES

© Ben A Bergmann CC BY 2.0

Also suitable for Urban Planters & Containers see

<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Shrubs	Page 11
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	Herbaceous	Page 23
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Ground Cover	Page 26
<i>Ophiopogon planiscapus</i> 'Nigrescens'	Ground Cover	Page 27
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Ground Cover	Page 27
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Coastal Gardens	Page 29
<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	Coastal Gardens	Page 29
<i>Festuca glauca</i> 'Elijah Blue'	Green Roofs & Walls	Page 44
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Green Roofs & Walls	Page 45
<i>Thymus drucei</i>	Green Roofs & Walls	Page 45
<i>Erica carnea</i>	Urban Landscapes	Page 46
<i>Erica x darleyensis</i>	Urban Landscapes	Page 47
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Tropical Foliage Style	Page 53
<i>Skimmia japonica</i> 'Rubella'	Tropical Foliage Style	Page 54

REGULATED INVASIVE SPECIES



© Edwina Cole

Gunnera manicata

Brazilian Giant-rhubarb

Present in the wild in Ireland. Forms dense colonies along river banks and damp acidic pasture land that outcompete local species and alter soil nutrients by nitrogen fixation.

UNREGULATED INVASIVE SPECIES



© Dick Culbert CC BY 2.0

Cyperus eragrostis

Pale Galingale

Present in the wild in Ireland. Outcompetes native species. Has a persistent and large seed bank. Potential to disturb waterways.



© Barry Walter CC

Angelica sylvestris

Wild Angelica

A tall robust biennial/perennial herb, up to 2m in height, with large deeply lobed leaves and hollow purple stems. Umbels of green-white flowers are produced from July to September. These are followed by oval ridged seeds in autumn.



ALTERNATIVE SPECIES



© Homer Edward Price CC BY 2.0

Athyrium filix-femina

Lady-fern

An attractive deciduous light green shuttlecock fern with arching lacy fronds that can reach up to 1m in height. Some frond stalks can be burgundy-red in colour. Grows best in a sheltered position. Shade tolerant.



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Callicarpa bodinieri var. *giraldii* 'Profusion'

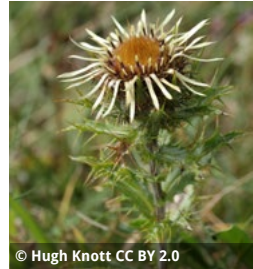
Beautyberry 'Profusion'

A deciduous shrub with bronze-purple lanceolate leaves when young. Can reach up to 3m in height. Small pale pink to lilac flowers appear in midsummer. Foliage turns a rosy-pink colour in autumn when large compact clusters of violet bead-like berries also appear. Grows best in a sheltered position.



*Carlina vulgaris***Carlina Thistle**

A dry stiff biennial (up to 30cm in height) with silver-grey oblong spiky leaves. Flower heads composed of golden/brown rayless flowers with spiny yellow petal-like bracts are produced from June to September. The flower heads close up in wet weather and once gone over persist well into the winter. Tolerant of nutrient poor soils.



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Deschampsia cespitosa 'Goldtau'**Tufted Hair-grass 'Goldtau'**

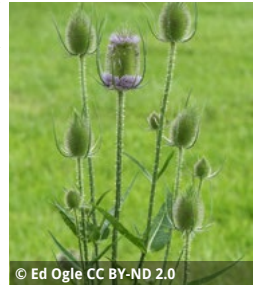
A compact clump-forming perennial grass with narrow green leaves that can reach up to 75cm in height. Long-lasting silvery-brownish-green flower plumes appear in summer and turn a golden colour in autumn providing a graceful and shimmering effect.



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*Dipsacus fullonum***Wild Teasel**

A striking branched prickly biennial that can reach up to 3m in height. A rosette of dark green spiny leaves forms which is followed the next year by upright stems with opposite bright green leaves which join at the base and cup the stem. Spiny conical thistle-like flowerheads containing tiny blue/purple flowers are produced in July and August. Small seeds are formed in autumn and winter. Tolerant of poor soils.



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*Melianthus major***Giant Honey Flower**

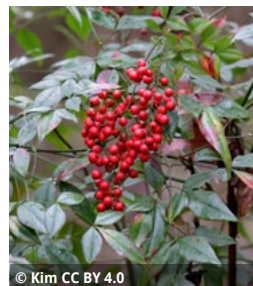
A stunning evergreen sub-shrub with a sparsely branched and sprawling habit. Can reach up to 2.5m in height. It bears deeply divided glaucous leaves with toothed edges which smell of peanut butter when rubbed. Occasionally honey-scented racemes of small maroon flowers appear in summer. Grows best in a sheltered position. Protect from winter frosts. Toxic to animals.



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*Nandina domestica***Heavenly Bamboo**

A small evergreen slow-growing shrub with a bamboo-like habit which can reach up to 1.5m in height. Delicate new foliage of pinnate leaves with lance-shaped leaflets is initially purple in colour but turns green in summer. Panicles of small white flowers also appear in summer, followed by red berries. Foliage turns a purple colour in winter. Best grown in a sheltered position. Resistant to drought. Toxic to birds and pets.



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Osmunda regalis

Royal Fern

A tall deciduous clump-forming and robust fern with bipinnate fronds that can reach up to 2m in height. Fronds emerge a copper colour before turning bright green. Fronds turn an attractive bronze colour in autumn before dying back. Spores are produced at the tips of the fronds and not on the under surface of the frond. Tolerant of full sun if grown in a cool and constantly damp site.



© Edwin Cole

Skimmia japonica 'Rubella'

Skimmia 'Rubella'

A slow-growing compact evergreen shrub with reddish deep green leaves. It can reach up to 1m in height. Dark red flower buds develop in autumn and persist throughout the winter before opening as fragrant male white flowers in spring. Grows best in a sheltered position.



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Stachyurus praecox

Early Stachyurus

A large deciduous shrub with an arching habit. Can reach up to 3m in height. Drooping racemes of bell-shaped pale yellow flowers appear on bare branches from February to April. These are followed by pointed oval shaped leaves on purple-red stems.



Also suitable for Tropical Foliage Style see

<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Ponds	Page 15
<i>Crambe maritima</i>	Coastal Gardens	Page 30
<i>Fatsia japonica</i>	Coastal Gardens	Page 31
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Ornamental Grasses & Foliage	Page 42
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Ornamental Grasses & Foliage	Page 42
<i>Miscanthus x giganteus</i>	Ornamental Grasses & Foliage	Page 43
<i>Stipa gigantea</i>	Ornamental Grasses & Foliage	Page 43

*Lysichiton americanus***American Skunk-cabbage**

Present in the wild in Ireland. Forms dense stands which shade and outcompete local species. Alters water chemistry. Over time excludes light and impacts local water biodiversity.



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REGULATED INVASIVE SPECIES

*Juncus planifolius***Broad-leaved Rush**

Present in the wild in the west of Ireland. Forms dense tufts which have the potential to outcompete local species, resulting in probable decreases in biodiversity and changes to wetland habitat composition and structure.

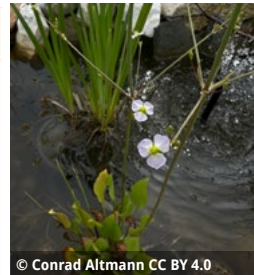


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UNREGULATED INVASIVE SPECIES

*Alisma plantago-aquatica***Water-plantain**

A marginal rhizomatous aquatic perennial with basal rosettes of ovate grey-green leaves. Tall panicles, up to 1m in height, of 3-petalled white to pink flowers are produced in late spring.



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*Carex acutiformis***Lesser Pond-sedge**

A robust rhizomatous clump-forming perennial with long pale blue-green leaves. In summer tall stems, up to 1.5m in height, with fluffy pale brown flower spikes are produced, which later develop into black seed heads. Provides excellent soil stabilisation. Shade tolerant.



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ALTERNATIVE SPECIES

*Eleocharis acicularis***Needle Spike-rush**

A mat-forming marginal perennial with narrow grass-like leaves up to 15cm in height. Spikelets of brown flowers are borne on unbranched stems from May to and August. Can be planted in water up to 50cm deep. Oxygenator.



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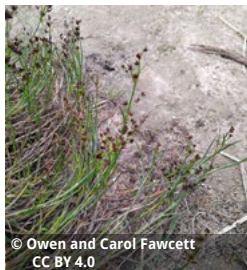


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Geum rivale

Water Avens

A slow-growing rhizomatous herbaceous perennial, up to 0.5m in height, with lobed basal leaves. Nodding bell-shaped pink to orange flowers are produced on dark red stems from May to September. These develop into a feathery burr of hooked seeds. Slug resistant.



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Juncus articulatus

Jointed Rush

A clump-forming perennial rush with a prostrate habit, reaching up to only 50cm in height. Branched clusters of brown flowers appear from June to September and arch upwards, followed by attractive brown-black seed heads.



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Stachys palustris

Marsh Woundwort

A marginal aquatic slightly-smelling hairy herbaceous perennial, up to 1m in height, with a square stem and opposite oblong pointed green leaves. Spikes of pink-purple hooded flowers are produced in July and August. May flower into September in sheltered areas. It overwinters as underground tubers and resprouts again in spring.



Also suitable for Rain Gardens see

Filipendula ulmaria	Ponds	Page 15
Iris pseudacorus	Ponds	Page 15
Lysimachia vulgaris	Ponds	Page 16
Lythrum salicaria	Ponds	Page 16
Silene flos-cuculi	Ponds	Page 15
Veronica beccabunga	Ponds	Page 17
Succisa pratensis	Herbaceous	Page 25
Prunella vulgaris	Ground Cover	Page 27
Primula vulgaris	Urban Planters & Containers	Page 50
Angelica sylvestris	Tropical Foliage Style	Page 52
Deschampsia cespitosa 'Goldtau'	Tropical Foliage Style	Page 53

Characteristic			Native	Pollinator friendly	Food for wildlife	Shelter for wildlife	Neutral Conditions	Acidic Conditions	Alkaline Conditions	Moist but well-drained soils	Well-drained soils	Poorly-drained soils	Water	Tolerant of Exposure	Sun/Semi-shade	Sun	Semi-shade/shade	Autumn Colour
Plant	Page																	
Abelia x grandiflora	37		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓			✓
Acer palmatum	6				✓	✓	✓		✓						✓			✓
Achillea millefolium	21	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			
Actinidia kolomikta	18			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓		
Agapanthus praecox subsp. orientalis 'Blue Umbrella'	46		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓							✓		
Ajuga reptans	26	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	
Alisma plantago-aquatica	55	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓		
Allium schoenoprasum	34	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			
Allium tuberosum	34		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓							✓		
Anemone blanda	26		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓					✓			
Anemone nemorosa	34	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓	
Angelica sylvestris	52	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓			
Anthriscus sylvestris	21	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓			
Arbutus unedo	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓			
Armeria maritima	29	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓		✓		
Astrantia major	21		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			
Athyrium filix-femina	52	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓						✓	
Betula pendula	6	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓		✓
Butomus umbellatus	14	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓		
Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'	41				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓
Callicarpa bodinieri var. giraldii 'Profusion'	52			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓					✓			✓
Callistemon citrinus	29		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓						✓		
Calluna vulgaris	10	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓				✓		✓		✓
Caltha palustris	14	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓			
Camassia leichtlinii	35		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			

Characteristic		Native	Pollinator friendly	Food for wildlife	Shelter for wildlife	Neutral Conditions	Acidic Conditions	Alkaline Conditions	Moist but well-drained soils	Well-drained soils	Poorly-drained soils	Water	Tolerant of Exposure	Sun/Semi-shade	Sun	Semi-shade/shade	Autumn Colour
Plant	Page																
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	22	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			
<i>Carex acutiformis</i>	55	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓			
<i>Carex oshimensis</i>	41				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
<i>Carex punicea</i>	41				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓
<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>	53	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓		✓		
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	22	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	14	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓			
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	7		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓			✓
<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	29				✓	✓	✓			✓				✓			
<i>Chimonanthus praecox</i>	10		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓
<i>Cirsium rivulare</i> 'Atropurpureum'	22		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓		
<i>Cistus x purpureus</i>	30		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓					✓		
<i>Clematis armandi</i>	18		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓						✓		
<i>Clematis</i> 'Jackmanii'	18		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			
<i>Clianthus puniceus</i>	19		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓		
<i>Convolvulus cneorum</i>	46		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓					✓		
<i>Cornus kousa</i>	7		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	37	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓			
<i>Cotula hispida</i>	44		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓		
<i>Crambe maritima</i>	30	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓			
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	37	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	30	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓				✓			
<i>Daphne bholua</i>	10		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
<i>Daucus carota</i>	30	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓			✓		✓		
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> 'Goldtau'	53			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓			✓
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> subsp. <i>cespitosa</i>	42	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓			

Characteristic		Native	Pollinator friendly	Food for wildlife	Shelter for wildlife	Neutral Conditions	Acidic Conditions	Alkaline Conditions	Moist but well-drained soils	Well-drained soils	Poorly-drained soils	Water	Tolerant of Exposure	Sun/Semi-shade	Sun	Semi-shade/shade	Autumn Colour
Plant	Page																
Dierama pulcherrimum	22		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		
Digitalis purpurea	22	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Dipsacus fullonum	53	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Echinacea purpurea	23		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓			
Eleocharis acicularis	55	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓		
Erica carnea	46		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		
Erica cinerea	11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓			
Erica x darleyensis	47		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓			
Eryngium maritimum	30	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓			✓		✓		
Erysimum linifolium 'Bowles's Mauve'	23		✓	✓		✓		✓		✓				✓			
Euonymus alatus	11		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓
Euonymus europaeus	38	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓
Eupatorium maculatum 'Atropurpureum'	23		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Euphorbia epithymoides	44		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓
Exochorda racemosa	11		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓			
Fagus sylvatica	38			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓
Fatsia japonica	31		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓	
Festuca glauca	42				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Festuca glauca 'Elijah Blue'	44				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Filipendula ulmaria	15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			
Fragaria vesca	26	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			
Frangula alnus	11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			
Frangula alnus 'Asplenifolia'	7		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			✓
Fritillaria imperialis	35		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓					✓		
Galanthus elwesii	35		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	
Galtonia candicans	35		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		

Characteristic		Native	Pollinator friendly	Food for wildlife	Shelter for wildlife	Neutral Conditions	Acidic Conditions	Alkaline Conditions	Moist but well-drained soils	Well-drained soils	Poorly-drained soils	Water	Tolerant of Exposure	Sun/Semi-shade	Sun	Semi-shade/shade	Autumn Colour
Plant	Page																
<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	11				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓			
<i>Genista pilosa</i>	27		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓		
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	27	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓
<i>Geum rivale</i>	56	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	31	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓		
<i>Hakonechloa macra</i>	42				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
<i>Halesia carolina</i>	7		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓			✓
<i>Hamamelis mollis</i>	12		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓			✓
<i>Hedera helix</i>	19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	
<i>Hoheria sexstylosa</i>	31		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓			
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i>	47				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			
<i>Hydrangea petiolaris</i>	19		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓			✓
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	12		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓			✓
<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	23		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓					✓			
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓
<i>Ilex crenata</i>	38		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	15	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓		✓			
<i>Itea ilicifolia</i>	19		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			
<i>Jasione montana</i>	49	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓						✓	
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	56	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			✓			
<i>Juncus effusus</i> f. <i>spiralis</i>	15				✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓			
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	47	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	23	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓			✓			✓	
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	49		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓						✓	
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	24	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
<i>Ligularia przewalskii</i>	24		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓					✓	

Characteristic			Native	Pollinator friendly	Food for wildlife	Shelter for wildlife	Neutral Conditions	Acidic Conditions	Alkaline Conditions	Moist but well-drained soils	Well-drained soils	Poorly-drained soils	Water	Tolerant of Exposure	Sun/Semi-shade	Sun	Semi-shade/shade	Autumn Colour
Plant	Page																	
Liquidambar styraciflua	8		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓			✓
Liriope muscari	24		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓							✓	
Lobelia cardinalis	15		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓			✓			
Lonicera periclymenum	19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			
Lotus corniculatus	31	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓		
Luzula sylvatica	42	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	
Lychnis flos-cuculi	15	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			
Lysimachia vulgaris	16	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓		✓	✓			
Lythrum salicaria	16	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Magnolia stellata	8		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
Mahonia japonica	12		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	
Malus domestica	38		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			✓
Malus sylvestris	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓
Melianthus major	53		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓		
Mentha aquatica	16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			
Menyanthes trifoliata	16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓			
Miscanthus sinensis	42			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		✓
Miscanthus x longiberbis	43				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		✓
Molinia caerulea	43	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓			✓
Nandina domestica	53			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓		✓
Nerine bowdenii	35		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓
Nuphar lutea	16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓			
Nymphaea alba	17	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓		
Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Nigrescens'	27		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓					✓			
Origanum vulgare	27	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓			
Ornithogalum pyrenaicum	36		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓				✓			
Osmanthus x burkwoodii	39		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓			

Characteristic		Native	Pollinator friendly	Food for wildlife	Shelter for wildlife	Neutral Conditions	Acidic Conditions	Alkaline Conditions	Moist but well-drained soils	Well-drained soils	Poorly-drained soils	Water	Tolerant of Exposure	Sun/Semi-shade	Sun	Semi-shade/shade	Autumn Colour
Plant	Page																
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	54	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
<i>Phlomis russeliana</i>	47		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	31					✓	✓			✓				✓			
<i>Photinia</i> x <i>fraseri</i> 'Red Robin'	39				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	12	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
<i>Primula veris</i>	49	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	50	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	27	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			
<i>Prunus</i> 'Shirotae'	8		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		✓
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	39	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			
<i>Rosa canina</i>	39	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
<i>Rosa moyesii</i>	20		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> var. <i>sullivantii</i> 'Goldsturm'	24		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			
<i>Salix caprea</i>	39	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓		
<i>Salvia</i> 'Hot Lips'	50		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		
<i>Salvia microphylla</i>	50		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		
<i>Salvia nemorosa</i> 'Ostfriesland'	24		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓		
<i>Salvia rosmarinus</i>	17		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓		
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	40	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			
<i>Sarcococca hookeriana</i>	48		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	
<i>Saxifraga spathularis</i>	50	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i> 'Butterfly Blue'	51		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓		
<i>Sedum acre</i>	45	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		
<i>Sempervivum tectorum</i>	45		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓					✓		
<i>Silene dioica</i>	25	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
<i>Silene uniflora</i>	32	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			

Characteristic		Native	Pollinator friendly	Food for wildlife	Shelter for wildlife	Neutral Conditions	Acidic Conditions	Alkaline Conditions	Moist but well-drained soils	Well-drained soils	Poorly-drained soils	Water	Tolerant of Exposure	Sun/Semi-shade	Sun	Semi-shade/shade	Autumn Colour
Plant	Page																
Skimmia japonica 'Rubella'	54			✓		✓	✓		✓							✓	✓
Solanum laxum	20		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓		
Sorbus aria	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
Sorbus aucuparia	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓			✓
Stachys palustris	56	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			
Stachyurus praecox	54		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓			
Stipa gigantea	43				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		
Succisa pratensis	25	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			
Syringa meyeri	13		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Taxus baccata	9	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓		✓	
Thymus praecox	45	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓			✓		✓		
Tiarella cordifolia	28		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓
Trachelospermum jasminoides	20		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓			
Trifolium repens	28	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		
Tripolium pannonicum	32	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓		
Tulbaghia violacea	36		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓					✓		
Typha latifolia	17	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		
Uvularia grandiflora	36		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	
Vaccinium myrtillus	13	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓			✓
Valeriana officinalis	32	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			
Vallea stipularis	32		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓			
Veronica beccabunga	17	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			
Veronicastrum virginicum	25		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			
Viburnum opulus	13	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓
Viola odorata	28	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
Wisteria sinensis	20		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			

About this List

The list includes only ornamental plants where evidence is currently available that provides some assurance that future invasions from these species are less likely in our current climate. Reynolds 2002 book, *A catalogue of alien plants in Ireland*, the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland's (BSBI) database mapping system, BSBI Atlas 2020 and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) database have been checked to see if these plants have been frequently found outside gardens, or have been recorded as invasive in other countries.





An tIonad Náisiúnta
Sonraí Bithéagsúlachta
National Biodiversity
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