

Woodland Plants at Manch



Hart's Tongue
Creamh na muice fia

Hard Fern
Raithneach chrua

Bracken
Raithneach mhór

Bluebell
Coinnle coora



Marsh Marigold
Lus buí Bealtaine

Rosebay Willowherb
Lus na tine

Guelder-rose
Caor chon

Wood Anemone
Lus na gaoithe



Foxglove
Lus mór

Lesser Celandine
Grán arcáin

Herb Robert
Ruithéal rí

Enchanter's Nightshade
Fuinseagach



Ramson (Wild Garlic)
Glaschreamh

Common Dog Violet
Sailchuach chon

Honeysuckle
Féithleann

Common Name
Irish Name

Woodland Plants at Manch



Ireland has a very small percentage of land that is covered by woodland (10% as compared to the European average of 44%). Of this, the majority of woodland in Ireland is non-native monoculture conifer plantations.

Native Woodlands are an essential feature of the Irish landscape. They play an important role and provide wood for tool making, fuel, building materials, and are an increasing valuable amenity. Woodland act as a carbon sink (storing carbon and converting carbon dioxide to oxygen in the atmosphere), recycle nutrients, retain and recycle water and help prevent soil erosion and maintain good soil quality.

Woodlands with a variety of native broadleaf trees support a huge variety of flora and fauna species. There is a much higher biodiversity of flora and fauna in a native broadleaf woodland compared to a monoculture conifer planation.

Plants require light to grow and flower which is why many plants found in native broadleaf woodland flower early in the year, before the tree leaves open above them and reduce the amount of sunlight reaching the ground.

There can be as many as 74 flowering plant species in a native Irish woodland. Different species are adapted for different living conditions (or 'niches'); some prefer wetter areas, some like lots of shade, some like different types of soil etc.

The Composition of an Natural Irish Woodland

A natural Irish woodland is made up of up to 5 layers.

1. **Canopy:** is made up of the crowns of neighbouring trees which branch out to meet and form a nearly continuous layer of foliage
2. **Understory:** Beneath the canopy of the dominant trees and is made up of other smaller trees
3. **Shrub Layer:** consists of medium sized plants like bilberry and honeysuckle
4. **Herbaceous Layer:** where shade-loving plants like ferns and an abundance of wild flowers are found
5. **Moss Layer:** right down on the ground are the mosses, liverworts and lichens



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Recording Biodiversity at The Forestry Foundation

The Forestry Foundation is currently undertaking research on the Biodiversity of the Manch Estate Habitats.

If you see any plant or animal species while at Manch, please let us know.

Take a photo and record where you see the species. Biodiversity recording sheet are available from the office or on our website.

Call into the Office
Phone us on (023) 8822823
Email enquiries@inff.ie