

School gardening notes for October



Nótaí garraíodóireachta scoile do Mhí Dheireadh Fómhair

Diary

The hedgerow heavy with bounty for bird and beast. The multi-coloured thorns, bushes and trees dangle their glistening fruits for the ever-pecking birds. The colourful flesh without ensures the latters' survival; the seeds within, the formers'. The holly and ivy alone stand proud and green, oblivious to the frantic changes around them. Jennifer spotted a wren skulking in the undergrowth.



Cultivation beds

- ✦ Broad beans can be sown in a vegetable bed in October. Harvest them in June. See www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/basics/techniques/growfruitandveg_growingbroadbeans1.shtml These beans can be eaten raw in June. Check for allergy called favism.



Weed of the month

It's a good idea to introduce the Garden Patrol to a new weed every month. Get them to dig up the creeping buttercup this month. This spreads rapidly by seeds and runners and is a perennial.

Teachers

It's a good month to introduce children to growing trees from seed. A child who sees a tree growing from seed is less likely to be a tree-vandal in the future.

Class Vegetables

- Junior Sow a chestnut in a milk carton. See www.blackrockec.ie/node/153
- infants Sow an acorn in a milk carton. See www.blackrockec.ie/node/153
- Senior Sow an acorn in a milk carton. See www.blackrockec.ie/node/153
- infants Sow an acorn in a milk carton. See www.blackrockec.ie/node/153
- First Sow a hazelnut in a milk carton. See www.blackrockec.ie/content/how-grow-native-and-naturalised-trees-seeds
- Second Sow a hazelnut in a milk carton. See www.blackrockec.ie/content/how-grow-native-and-naturalised-trees-seeds
- Third Sow ash seeds. See www.blackrockec.ie/node/261
- Fourth Sow hawthorn seeds. See www.blackrockec.ie/node/261
- Fifth Sow a beech seed. See www.blackrockec.ie/content/how-grow-native-and-naturalised-trees-seeds

- ✦ Get the children to bring in well washed 0.5 litre milk cartons for the above activities.
- ✦ Grow plants from pips and fruit stones. See



Brian Boru oak

www.schooleartheid.ie/pdf/intouch/Zoom_in_Fruits_ofAutumn.pdf

- ✦ Training: SEED (www.schooleartheid.ie) will provide training in the basic skills of school gardening to whole school staffs. See www.schooleartheid.ie
- ✦ Keep the 'Garden Patrol' rota going. See September's *InTouch*.



Sycamore samaras



Log habitat

Biodiversity

- ✦ Create a log-pile for invertebrates in a shady area. See www.blackrockec.ie/content/october
- ✦ Make a ladybird hibernation box. See www.blackrockec.ie/content/october
- ✦ Make an outdoor wormery. See www.blackrockec.ie/content/october Also www.ipcc.ie/advice/composting-diy/composting-using-a-wormery



Left: Ladybird hibernation box



Right: Wormery



Sloes

It's the month for studying fruit and seed. Nature slows down and prepares to sleep



Haws

Living things

- ✦ Study seed dispersal. See the video www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rj2MLZ4xoZg
Also www.schooleartheid.ie/pdf/intouch/Zoom_in_Fruits_ofAutumn.pdf
- ✦ Study: ladybird (junior infants); rabbit (senior infants); woodlouse (first); squirrel (second); swallow (third); elder (fourth); bat (fifth); birch (sixth). See www.heritagecouncil.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/Education/Wildlife_in_Schools.pdf



Ladybird

Literacy/Litearthacht

Seed dispersal/scaipeadh síolta: Seeds are dispersed in autumn by wind, water, explosion, animals and humans. *Scaiptear síolta san fhómhar trí ghaoth, trí uisce, trí phléascadh, trí ainmhithe agus trí dhaoine daonna.*

Invertebrates/inveirteabrach: Animals with no backbones such as snails, millipedes and woodlice.

Ainmhithe nach bhfuil cnámh droma ar bith acu – seilidí, mílechosaigh agus cláirseacha.

Wormery/piastlann: A container containing organic matter and branding worms (tiger worms). *Soitheach a bhfuil ábhar orgánach agus lúbairí dearga (tiogair dhearga) ann.*

Log pile/carn cearchaille: A heap of rotting logs placed in a shady, wooded area to attract decomposers and other animals in a food web. *Carn de chearchaillí atá ag lobhadh in áit choillteach a bhfuil scáth ann chun discaoilteoirí agus ainmhithe eile a mhealladh i ngréasán bia.*



Cookery

Fruit recipes can be found on www.naturedetectives.org.uk/summer/cook.htm

Heritage apples

General

All my previous *InTouch* articles are now available on www.schooleartheid.ie/intouch-pdfs.html as well as on the INTO website.



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gives short courses to whole staffs on school gardening and also visits schools through the Heritage in Schools Scheme. His book **Go Wild At School**, has recently been reprinted. Available for €18 from paddy.madden@mie.ie (includes p&e).

