

Some Common Flowering Native Trees

The sight of trees and hedgerows in flower is a joy to see, and a wonderful nectar source for pollinators. The fruit that follow the flowers are food for birds (and people).

Blackthorn is a small spiny tree or large shrub. It flowers in early spring, before the leaves appear. The fruit are sloes, bitter to our taste, but enjoyed by birds. The wood is used to make walking sticks called shillelaghs.



Blackthorn, *Prunus spinosa* - Draighean

Hawthorn is another small spiny tree or large shrub, often grown as a hedge. It flowers in May. The fruit are called haws. Lone hawthorn trees are associated with the little folk and are known as 'fairy trees'. It is considered bad luck to cut one down.



Hawthorn, *Crataegus monogyna* - Sceach gheal



Elderberries



Elder, *Sambucus nigra* - Tromán



Elder leaves

Elder is a small tree. The leaves smell horribly when crushed, but the flowers and fruit are much loved to make drinks, jams and jellies. Insects and birds also love this tree.



Rowan, *Sorbus aucuparia* - Caorthann

Rowan or Mountain Ash has delicate lacy leaves and flowers. It is often grown in gardens, and there are many named cultivars. The flowers are followed by red berries in autumn.



Wild Cherry, *Prunus avium* - Crann silín fiáin

Wild Cherry or Gean has smaller flowers than domestic flowering cherry trees. The fruits are also smaller, and bitter. Wild cherry often sends out suckers, and may form a small copse.

