

CELEBRATE NATIONAL TREE DAY WITH HAWTHORN TREES!



3rd OCTOBER 2024

Hawthorn/Whitethorn, *Sceach gheal*, *Crataegus monogyna*

Hawthorn is a deciduous tree that is native to Ireland and is commonly found in hedgerows and throughout the countryside. They can also be found in woodland, if there is enough light. A mature tree can reach up to 15m in height. The brown-grey bark is knotted and the slender twigs covered in thorns, to protect the tree from being eaten by animals. The trees produce sweet scented delicate white or pale pink flowers in May. These flowers then produce deep red haws in Autumn.



Hawthorn supports hundreds of other species and is very important for biodiversity. The thick thorny foliage provides secure shelter for nesting birds. Its leaves provide food for caterpillars and the flowers provide pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinating insects. The red haws are a favourite food for birds like thrushes and redwings along with small mammals in Winter. Haws are rich in antioxidants and are often used to make jellies and sauces.

Fill in the blanks with the words below!

AUTUMN

SUN

HEDGING

CHARCOAL

FLOWER

ASIA

- ❖ Hawthorn trees grow in most soils but flower and fruit best in full _____.
- ❖ The lobed green leaves turn yellow before falling in _____.
- ❖ Hawthorn is commonly used as a _____ plant and is often used in wildlife gardens.
- ❖ They are often called May trees due to the fact they _____ in that month
- ❖ Hawthorn grows in cool climate areas of Europe, North America and _____.
- ❖ Hawthorn makes good firewood and _____ as it burns at a high temperature.

In the *Harry Potter* series, Draco Malfoy's wand is made from hawthorn wood.



Find a hawthorn tree in the Castle Park! (In the far field, on the way to the pond)

What colour and shape are the leaves? _____

Describe the bark? _____

Why don't you draw the leaves or haws of the Hawthorn tree? Or take a bark rubbing!

Large empty rectangular box for drawing or bark rubbing.

*In Irish folklore Hawthorn trees are often considered to be Fairy Trees.
Remember though.....All Trees Are Magic!*

Find the words in the word search below!

- LEAF
- INSECT
- TREE
- HAW
- FAIRY
- POLLEN
- FLOWER
- THORN

A	R	B	I	O	F	J	W	K	P	C	D	H	J	E	M
T	V	T	O	I	N	S	E	C	T	L	S	F	B	L	H
R	N	H	V	E	A	T	M	V	J	O	D	A	Y	E	A
E	I	O	M	F	P	O	L	L	E	N	D	I	D	A	W
E	W	R	H	H	G	O	P	F	S	H	W	R	K	F	Q
Q	L	N	I	F	L	O	W	E	R	W	J	Y	M	N	X

For further information check out.....

www.treecouncil.ie

www.treeday.ie