



news &

events

January – June 2012



News from the gardens



Dublin, City of Science 2012

Dublin has been chosen to host Europe's largest science conference, *Euroscience Open Forum* during July this year. To celebrate this prestigious international event in Dublin, *the City of Science 2012*, a programme of science-related events and activities, will run throughout the year across the island of Ireland (www.dublinscience2012.ie). To mark the event, the National Botanic Gardens is presenting a series of informal science lectures - *the Science of Plants* – to highlight some of the amazing, but often hidden aspects in the life of plants. Botanists from the Gardens will be giving afternoon lectures on Wednesday afternoons at 3 o'clock (from mid-February to the end of March) highlighting our work on the plants of Ireland and the world.

We will also be marking *Fascination of Plants Day* on the 18th May to showcase some of the amazing molecules that plants use to feed off sunlight, store this energy, build wood and pass on their genes to future generations so as to keep the whole planet working. We also want to show you how important plants are to your everyday life, and the conservation

work done by the Gardens on Ireland's flora will be showcased throughout the coming year

Conserving the Irish Flora

The vast majority of garden plants have been of immense benefit to our gardens and landscape, but a small minority have become notorious problems – Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed and Giant Rhubarb to name a few. However, it is often impossible to predict what or when the next problem plant is going to be. One of our conservation botanists, Noeleen Smyth, has had considerable success in tackling these plants on the principle that a stitch in time will save future heartache. This year we hope to develop displays to emphasise our work on these plants as well as educating the gardening public in how they too can promote responsible horticulture.

It was fitting that Jimmy Deenihan, T.D., Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, launched Ireland's second National Biodiversity Plan (Actions for Biodiversity 2011 – 2016) at the National Botanic Gardens in November.

Maura Scannell

Maura Scannell, an early champion of plant conservation at the Gardens, and former keeper of the National Herbarium, died just before Christmas. Maura Scannell has been a central figure in Ireland's botanical world for over 60 years. A skilled horsewoman in her youth, Maura graduated from University College Cork and became Assistant Keeper of the Natural History Division of the National Museum in 1949. It was there that she developed her deep and thorough understanding of the historical and cultural importance of plants in Ireland.

Maura was an inspiration to generations of botanists, supremely generous with her time and energy, and a tireless correspondent. She will be greatly missed by her colleagues.

Exhibitions & special events

Saturday 3rd March – 19th April

Exhibition: 'In celebration of trees' –

An exhibition of Bonsai

National Tree Week marks the opening of this exhibition of Bonsai in the Conservatory. Watch the Bonsai burst back to life displaying the splendid spring foliage of maples, cherries and many other interesting plants. A series of free re-potting demonstrations will be held during the course of the exhibition.

Demonstrations: Saturdays 10th, 24th and 31st March

Time: 11.00am

Exhibition and demonstrations to be held in the Conservatory.

Monday 5th March

National Tree Week 2012 Poster Exhibition

The theme of Tree Week this year is: 'Trees- Our Past, Our Present, Our Future'. View the entries from this year's competition to design a poster for National Tree Week, organised by the Tree Council of Ireland. Third level art students are invited to submit work based around the theme. The winning poster and runners up will be displayed for the week.

Wednesday 7th March

Gala evening – A Feast of Trees

During Tree Week we will be holding a four course candle-lit dinner interspersed with short talks from four invited speakers: John Feehan, Éanna ní Lamhna, Donal Magner and Thomas Pakenham. The feast will be held in the Gallery of the Visitor Centre with the floodlit glasshouses as an atmospheric backdrop. Tree-related items from the Garden's museum will provide the opportunity to win spot prizes through the evening. A unique and special evening in praise of trees.

Time: 7pm in the Gallery of the Education and Visitor Centre

Cost: €35.

Numbers will be limited so advance booking is essential.

Saturday 24th March

Irish Met Society – 'The Science of Weather Forecasting'

A one-day conference featuring talks on T.V. weather, weather radar, satellites, clouds, forecasting, surviving an

Air France plane crash, weather models and phenology.
Although admission is free, booking is essential
at www.irishmetsociety.org
Time: 10.00am

Saturday 14th April - Sunday 15th April

Welcoming the bees back to the Botanic Gardens

Meet the beekeepers at this special weekend event in celebration of the welcome return of bees to the Botanic Gardens. As well as informative talks on the history of beekeeping, there will be an exhibition of live bees in an observation hive, a honey show, displays of beekeeping equipment, a children's art competition and a demonstration of how honey is extracted from the honeycomb. Further details: www.beekeeping.ie
Times 10.00am – 5.00pm. daily

Saturday 21st April - Sunday 22nd April

Dublin Orchid Fair

A wide variety of orchids will be on display during the annual Dublin Orchid Fair, which is being held in the Conservatory this year. This event is of interest to both beginner and accomplished growers and will provide an opportunity to source orchids, sundries and books. As part of the fair there will be talks on growing orchids and a tour of the Glasnevin orchid collection.
Times 10.00am. – 5.00pm

Thursday 10th May - Sunday 10th June

Exhibition: The Wildflowers of Ireland

An exhibition of the original artwork for the Wildflowers of Ireland sixth definitive series of stamps commissioned by An Post. These now familiar beautiful stamps were painted by award winning botanical artist Susan Sex. Susan has a long association with the National Botanic Gardens and many of her paintings are housed in the art collections of the Gardens. Her special area of interest has been the native orchids of Ireland. Daily in The gallery, Education and Visitor Centre

Thursday 21st June to Sunday 1st July

An Óige's Annual Photographic Exhibition

This ever-popular Annual Photographic Exhibition is organised by An Óige's Photographic Group. Featuring a wide range of prize-winning images for 2012.
Daily in the Gallery Space, Education and Visitor Centre

January – February

Thursday 26th January

**Lecture: The Future of Botany - A Personal Perspective.
'The Life and Times of a Present Day Botanist'**

Dr. Trevor Hodgkinson

Trevor has been a lecturer at Trinity College since 1997. He started his academic career at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and now runs a busy research team at the Botany Dept. TCD.

Time 8.00pm

Organised by the Irish Garden Plant Society

Thursday 9th February

Lecture: Balancing in the Burren – Conservation in a Living Landscape

Dr Sharon Parr

The Burren is a living landscape – its heart may be of stone but its life blood is agriculture. The landscape & biodiversity we see today has been shaped by a long history of human activity; the challenge we face is how to manage it into the future. This talk looks at some of the Burren's habitats & biodiversity, the problems they face and the role the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme plays in trying to carry out conservation at a landscape scale.

Time: 8.00pm Education and Visitor Centre

Organised by the Dublin Naturalists' Field Club





Thursday 16th February

Lecture: Plots and Plotolders in the Dublin Area – A History of Allotments 1910 – 1950

Dr Mary Forrest

Allotments and 'Grow It Yourself' are very popular nowadays but this is not just a new fashion. Allotments were also very common in Dublin in the early 20th century. Mary Forrest, a well-known lecturer at UCD, traces the history of how these allotments developed from 1910 to 1950.

Time: 8.00 pm Education and Visitor Centre
Organised by the Irish Garden Plant Society

Wednesday 22nd February

Lecture series: Science of Plants - Saving plants can save the planet

Noeleen Smyth will talk about the vital role that botanic gardens play in conserving plants threatened with extinction both here and overseas, and why such work is so important to our daily lives.

Time 3.00pm Education and Visitor Centre

Wednesday 29^h February

Lecture series: Science of Plants - Eating the Sun and Drinking the Earth

Colin Kelleher will describe the remarkable process of plant nutrition – how plants feed off sunlight, and how they get what they need from the soil.

Time 3.00pm Education and Visitor Centre

March

Saturday 3rd March

Exhibition: 'In celebration of trees' – An exhibition of Bonsai

See Exhibitions and special events for details on page 4. The exhibition will be in the Conservatory until the 19th of April.

Sunday 4th & Sunday 11th March

Guided Walk: Remarkable Trees of Glasnevin

To mark National Tree Week, a special guided walk will introduce some of the more beautiful and interesting trees of the National Botanic Gardens.

Time 2.30pm, Education and Visitor Centre

Monday 5th March

The Inaugural National Tree Week Lecture - Trees – Our Past, Our Present, Our Future

Dr. John Feehan, Author and Environmentalist

Dr. John Feehan has researched and written extensively on many facets of Ireland's environmental history and heritage. A successful author, and for many years senior lecturer in the School of Biology and Environmental Science at UCD. He recently published *Wildflowers of Offaly*, and is also well known for his television work on the natural and cultural heritage of the Irish landscape, notably *Exploring the Landscape* (1988) for which he received a Jacob's Award. He received a special award from Bord na Móna for his work in communicating environmental values.

The official opening of the exhibition of entries to the National Tree Week 2012 poster competition and prize-giving ceremony for the winning entries will follow the lecture.

Time 3.00pm, Education and Visitor Centre

Organised by The Tree Council of Ireland

Wednesday 7th March

Lecture series: Science of Plants: How Ireland got its Trees

Colin Kelleher will describe what we know about the arrival of trees in Ireland since the last Ice Age.

Time 3.00pm, Education and Visitor Centre



Wednesday 7th March

Gala evening – A Feast of Trees

See Exhibitions and Special events for details and how to book for this unique event in celebration of trees on page 4.

Saturday 10th March

Gardening Workshop - Grow your own Organic Vegetables

Learn about growing vegetables organically from the professional gardening staff of the National Botanic Gardens. Our garden expert will have lots of practical tips on growing your own vegetables. You will get practical advice on how to be an environmentally friendly gardener and on how to get the best results from your garden, regardless of how small it is.

Time: 11.00am, Education and Visitor Centre

Cost: €20. Please note, numbers are limited so advance booking is essential.

Proceeds in aid of the Irish Museums Trust.

Saturday 10th, 24th, 31st March

Bonsai repotting demonstrations.

In conjunction with the Bonsai exhibition we are pleased to host these free demonstrations on repotting and care of your bonsai.

Time: 11.00am. Admission free

Tuesday 13th March

Detecting Climate Change Impacts on Plants and Animals

Join us for an evening of talks by international and national guest speakers exploring the impact that climate change is having on plants and animals.

This event has been organised as a collaboration between the National Botanic Gardens, Environmental Protection Agency, Trinity College Dublin and the National Biodiversity Data Centre as part of Dublin City of Science 2012.

Time: 7.00pm

Further Details: www.botanicgardens.ie

For Registration <http://bit.ly/2012Phenology>

Wednesday 14th March

Lecture series: Science of Plants - Plants that Bite Back

Matthew Jebb will talk about the amazing world of carnivorous plants, and the fascinating way in which these plants have evolved the ability to catch and consume insects, and some which have developed even more bizarre diets.

Time 3.00pm Education and Visitor Centre



Thursday 15th March

Lecture: Ireland's Butterflies

Dr David Nash

Dr David Nash, former president of the Dublin Naturalists' Field Club, has a longstanding interest in the environment and butterfly recording. He will give a talk on the recently launched informative and beautifully illustrated book on Ireland's Butterflies, which he co-authored with Deirdre Hardiman and the late Trevor Boyd. The book is the culmination of data collected over a 15-year period, showing the distribution of Ireland's Butterflies and when and where they may be seen. All 34 species of butterfly regularly seen in Ireland, along with their eggs, larvae and pupae are described, as well as some of the rarer vagrant butterflies to our shores. The book includes some 350 photographs, drawings, maps and charts.

Time: 8.00pm Education and Visitor Centre

Organised by the Dublin Naturalists' Field Club

Wednesday 21st March

Lecture series: Science of Plants - Pollen and Pollination

Matthew Jebb will describe the remarkable world of the pollen grain. Pollen evolved to enable plants to breed with one another after they left the oceans, but strangely, without pollen, there would be no flies, bees, butterflies or moths on the earth.

Time 3.00pm Education and Visitor Centre

Thursday 22nd March

Lecture: Planting for Illusion - Developing a Planting Palette to Showcase Dublin Zoo's Wildlife

Stephen Butler

Modern zoos have a varied planting to give visitors a feeling of immersion in the animals natural habitat. Over the past 10 years Dublin Zoo has developed 3 major themed habitats; the Asian Rainforest, the African Savannah and the African Rainforest. This talk will look at how Dublin Zoo's horticultural team create these habitats.

Time 8.00pm, Education and Visitor Centre

Organised by the Irish Garden Plant Society

Saturday 24th March

Irish Met Society – ‘The Science of Weather Forecasting’

See Exhibitions and special events for details and how to book for this one-day conference on page 4.

Sunday 25th March

Family Event: ‘Leaf Watch’, Family Phenology Day Launch

Phenology is the science of seasonal changes in the lives of plants and animals - bud burst on trees, flowering seasons, migration and nest-building by birds. By completing our ‘family phenology trail’ you can help do valuable work for the Botanic Gardens. We would like you to help us, by recording on what date the buds or flowers of certain trees and shrubs open, as well as the date when butterflies are on the wing. Research shows that climate change has already had a significant impact on the timing of these events in Ireland. The trail will take you to a selection of trees to observe and record your findings. Come and meet the expert scientists who will be here at 2.00pm and 4.00pm to launch the trail on Sunday 25th March. You can take this trail any time from the end of March and do it as many times as you like throughout the year. The information you record will be combined with everyone else’s and help us record the impact of climate change at the Botanic Gardens.

Time 2.00pm

Wednesday 28th March

Lecture series: Science of Plants: Jumping the Garden Fence - Globalisation in the Plant World

Noeleen Smyth will talk about the global problem of invasive plant species. A number of these plants such as *Carpobrotus* on Howth Head and *Gunnera* on Achill Island have escaped into the wild, and we have been working to both identify and resolve the threats they pose. The work of the Gardens both here and across the world will be discussed.

Time 3.00pm, Education and Visitor Centre

Saturday 31st March

Gardening Workshop – Planting for Allotments

This workshop will give you advice and support on the best vegetables and herbs to plant in your allotment covering companion planting, organic growing and composting.

Time: 11.00am

Meet at the Education and Visitor Centre

Cost: €20. Proceeds in aid of the Irish Museums Trust



April



Saturday 14th April - Sunday 15th April

Welcoming the bees back to the Botanic Gardens

See Exhibitions and special events for details of this weekend celebration of bees and beekeeping on page 5.

Sunday 15th April

Guided Walk – Pollination and Pollinators

Join guide Glynn Anderson on a walk and talk in the National Botanic Gardens about plant pollination and pollinators. Learn about both simple and ingenious ways in which plants are pollinated and some of the surprising birds, mammals and invertebrates that pollinate them. See what plants do to attract pollinators. Then go and see some of these plants, both native and exotic, close-up in the gardens.

Time: 2.30pm

Thursday 19th April

Lecture: Let's talk Primulas

Pam Eveleigh

Visiting from Canada, Pam Eveleigh, is a specialist on primroses and auriculas, as well as an accomplished macro and floral photographer and administrator of the Primula World website. Pam will give a detailed survey of the genus describing the many species she has seen in the wild and in cultivation.

Time: 8.00pm

Organised by the Alpine Garden Society



Saturday 21st April - Sunday 22nd April

Dublin Orchid Fair

See Exhibitions and special events for details of this year's annual Orchid Fair, which will be held in the Conservatory, on page 5.

Saturday 28th April

Gardening Workshop - Grow your own Organic Vegetables

Learn about growing vegetables organically from the professional gardening staff of the National Botanic Gardens. Our garden expert will have lots of practical tips on growing your own vegetables. You will get practical advice on how to be an environmentally friendly gardener and on how to get the best results from your garden, regardless of how small it is.

Time: 11.00am

Meet at the Education and Visitor Centre

Cost: €20. Proceeds in aid of the Irish Museums Trust.

Saturday 28th April

Fusing Drawing and Science – by capturing detailed aspects of botanical forms through drawing.

This monthly series of art workshops for adults fuses art and science together and fosters creative ways of seeing and exploring the intricate and rich biodiversity that exists at the National Botanic Gardens

Time 11.00am, Cost €25, further details and booking:

www.thedrawingworkshop.org

May

Saturdays 5th, 12th & 19th May.

Sundays 13th & 20th May

Guided Walk – Blossoms from China

Many of our common garden plants are Chinese in origin. May is the best time to see Paeonies, the Handkerchief Tree, Wisteria and many other flowering plants in full bloom. Come and see the Chinese plants at their best.

Time: 2.30pm

Meet: Education and Visitor Centre

Thursday 10th May

Exhibition: The Wildflowers of Ireland

See Exhibitions and special events for details of this exhibition of the original artwork for the Wildflowers of Ireland 6th definitive series of stamps commissioned by An Post, on page 5. Runs till Sunday 10th June.

Thursday 10th May

Lecture: Garden Plants and their Wild Irish Cousins

Dr Declan Doogue, Honorary Research Associate of the National Botanic Gardens, and well known author of *The Wildflowers of Ireland*, will talk about both native and introduced plants in this lecture.

Organised by the Alpine Garden Society and the Dublin Naturalists' Field Club

Time: 8.00pm, Education and Visitor Centre

Saturday 12th May

'Irish Plants on Irish Stamps'

In celebration of the Wild Flowers of Ireland stamp exhibition, the Dublin Naturalists' Field Club present a day of talks.

The Wild Flower set of Irish definitive stamps includes an interesting selection of our native wild plants with species from woodlands, hedgerows, grasslands and coastal habitats. Many of these plants have important ecological, aesthetic or cultural significance. The talks on the day will draw together these themes. Speakers will include well-known botanical artist, Susan Sex, who created the original artwork for the entire set and philatelist John Lennon who will speak on the stamps themselves, their production and varieties. Members



Iris pseudacorus, Yellow Flag Iris, painting by Susan Sex

of the Dublin Naturalists' Field Club will discuss the featured species, their ecology, distribution and conservation
Time: 10.00am – 5.00pm

Friday 18th May

Fascination of Plants Day

Guided Walks – Fascinating Plant Molecules

Plants are fascinating. From one little seed, planted into soil, many green lives can arise - from small herbs up to big trees, or from ornamental flowers to substantial crops which all animals and mankind need to survive on this planet. To do this, plants use some remarkable molecules to harvest sunlight, capture carbon dioxide, store food and pass on this inheritance to future generations of plants. In celebration of **Fascination of Plants Day**, the National Botanic Gardens is presenting a walk through the Gardens to meet some of these amazing molecules and learn about how each is so important in making plants work.

Times: 10.30am and 2pm

Guided Walks – Saving plants can save the planet

The 18th May is also **Plant Conservation Day**, and to mark the event, the National Botanic Gardens will be conducting guided tours through the developing **Wild Ireland** display, where the conservation work of the Gardens will be highlighted.

Times: 11am and 2.30pm

Sat. 19th May

Gardening Workshop – Growing Summer Salads

Regardless of the size of your garden, from window boxes to large plots, there is always a space for a wide variety of tasty salad crops. Join the National Botanic Gardens organic gardening crew and find out how you can grow delicious and succulent salads all summer long while being kind to the environment too.

Time: 11.00am

Meet at the Education and Visitor Centre.

Cost: €20. Proceeds in aid of the Irish Museums Trust.



Sat. 26th May

Fusing Drawing and Science – ‘Exploring Patterns in Plant Forms’

Phi: the Golden Ratio, as it relates to phyllotaxis (the placement of leaves on a stem)

The second in the monthly series of art workshops for adults fuses art and science together and fosters creative ways of seeing and exploring the intricate and rich biodiversity that exists at the National Botanic Gardens

Time 11.00am, Cost €25

Further details and booking: www.thedrawingworkshop.org

Sunday 27th May

Guided Walk – Fascinating Plants

Felicity Gaffney

How do plants survive in the desert? What plants trap their own food? Why do trees have thorns? What’s the fastest growing plant in the world? Find out the answers to these questions and more interesting plant facts.

Time: 2.30 pm

June

Sunday 10th June

Guided Walk – Plant Adaptations

Join guide Glynn Anderson on a walk and talk in the National Botanic Gardens to find out how plants adapt to their environment. See native, jungle and desert plant leaves, amongst others and learn the inventive ways in which plants have adapted to live, grow and reproduce in difficult conditions in their environment. Learn how plants adapt to wind, rain, drought, cold, heat, fire, shade, pollinators and predators, to name but a few.

Time: 2.30pm

Saturday 16th June

Gardening Workshop – ‘Parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme...’

Get some top tips from our garden expert on how to plan out your herb garden. Some herbs are annuals and some are perennials; find out how to grow a range of herbs successfully in your own garden.

Time: 11.00am

Meet at the Education and Visitor Centre

Cost: €20

Proceeds in aid of the Irish Museums Trust.

Thurs. 21st June

An Óige’s Annual Photographic Exhibition

See Exhibitions and special events for details of the annual An Óige exhibition, on page 5. Runs until Sunday 1st July.

Saturday 23rd June

Fusing Drawing and Science – ‘Taking a closer look’ – Drawing nature and plant life on the micro and macro scale.

The third in the monthly series of art workshops for adults fusing art and science together and fostering creative ways of seeing and exploring the intricate and rich biodiversity that exists at the National Botanic Gardens

Time 11.00am, Cost €25

Further details and booking: www.thedrawingworkshop.org

Events for children

Family Event: 'Leaf Watch', Family Phenology Day

By completing our 'family phenology trail' you can do valuable work for botanic gardens. We would like you to help us, by recording on what date the buds or flowers of certain trees and shrubs open, as well as the date when butterflies are on the wing. Research shows that climate change has had an impact on the timing of certain events in wildlife, e.g. bud burst on trees, butterfly flight periods and leaf colour change in autumn. This trail will take you to a selection of trees to observe and record your findings. Come and meet the expert scientists who will be here at 2.00pm and 4.00 pm to launch the trail on Sunday 25th March.

Take this trail any time from the end of March, as many times as you like throughout the year. The information you record will help us record the impact of climate change at the Botanic Gardens.

In celebration of Dublin City of Science 2012

**Saturdays 18th February, 10th March, 21st April,
19th May and 9th June.**

Children's Art in the Gardens

Have you ever wondered why the sky is blue? Or why the grass is green? Take part in our Art workshops, where you can get involved in guided explorations of the Natural world, working in harmony with the seasons to create imaginative works of art.

Each 2-hour session aims to foster curiosity about the natural world and encourage close observation of the details that often go unseen. Participants will get to respond creatively to their own observations while working with different methods and media in a fun and creative atmosphere.

Time: 2.00pm – 4.00pm. Suitable for ages 8 years and upwards. Each workshop costs €10.

Saturdays 26th May and 16th June

Pond dipping

A fun event exploring the weird and wonderful diversity of insects and minibeasts living in and around the pond at the botanic gardens. This workshop is suitable from age 8 upwards.

Time: 11.00am. Admission Free. Advance booking essential.

Organised with the Dublin Naturalists' Field Club

Education workshops for schools



Special themed guided tours are available for primary and secondary school groups

- Fascinating Plants - How do plants survive in the desert? What plants trap their own food? Why do trees have thorns? What's the fastest growing plant in the world? Find out the answers to these questions and view some amazing plants growing here in the Gardens.
- Learning the Links - exploring the interdependence between plants, animals and people.
- 'Ireland's Own' - Learn about Irish plants, their uses, mythology and how to identify them.
- 'Plants and Us' - Learn all about plants and the role they play in our lives.
- 'All Around the World in 50 minutes'. From the mighty Giant Redwood to the native Ash tree, join us on a geographical / botanical exploration of plants from around the world growing at the National Botanic Gardens.

Sustainability – What's That?

This workshop is designed for second level students, exploring and developing the principles of sustainability, biodiversity, plant conservation and the importance of plants in our lives. It includes presentations, tours and discussion. The education team at the National Botanic Gardens has developed this programme. It is cross-curricular in emphasis covering aspects from the Geography, Science and CSPE curriculum.

All education workshops are free of charge but must be booked in advance. For further details please phone 01 857 0909.

Gardening Classes



Growing Green Fingers – Gardening Classes for beginners at the National Botanic Gardens

The course will include a series of eight classes held on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings over a four-week period.

Night classes will commence at 7.30pm and finish at 9.15pm. Saturday Classes will commence at 10am and finish at 12.30pm. For evening classes there will be a gardener available in the auditorium from 7pm to answer specific queries or identify plants or plant problems. Cost per person €100. Proceeds to the Irish Museums Trust.

PROGRAMME

Saturday 4th February

Introduction to
Gardening
Soils

Tuesday 7th February

Pests and Diseases
Weed Control

Saturday 11th February

Propagation Workshop

Tuesday 14th February

House Plants
Herbs

Tuesday 21st February

Fruit
Vegetables

Saturday 25th February

Designing your Garden

Tuesday 28th February

Composting
The Gardening Year

Saturday 3rd March

Tour of the Gardens
Conclusion

Irish Botany Course



Irish Botany Course

Evening classes on Irish Botany for beginners. The course will include four evening classes (7.30-9.00 pm) which will comprise a talk followed by a practical session spent learning the skills of plant identification and a full Saturday (10.30 am to 3pm). The course is offered at a cost of €100. Proceeds to the Irish Museums Trust.

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 1st May

Plant anatomy
Identifying plants using
keys and field guides.

Tuesday 8th May

Identifying Irish
wildflowers, trees and
shrubs

Tuesday 15th May

Identifying grasses,
sedges and rushes

Saturday 19th May

A visit to the National
Herbarium - how to
collect and press plants,
followed by a field
excursion to Bull Island in
the afternoon.

Tuesday 22nd May

Ferns, Mosses and
Liverworts

Events at the National Botanic Gardens Kilmacurragh

Located in east County Wicklow, Kilmacurragh Botanic Gardens is the centrepiece of an 18th century estate and is today famous for its conifers and calcifuges.



Sunday 6th May

Guided walk – Head Gardeners Walk: 300 Glorious Years

Seamus O’Brien will lead visitors on a colourful walk celebrating 300 years of gardening at Kilmacurragh.

Time 3.00pm

Sunday 27th May

Guided walk – Floral Treasures at Kilmacurragh

Gardener Cathal O’Sullivan leads a stroll through the beautiful grounds of Kilmacurragh, exploring the eye catching seasonal variety on display through the herbaceous borders.

Time 3.00pm

Saturdays & Sundays in April: 7/8th, 14/15th, 21/22nd, 28/29th

Guided walk – Remarkable Rhododendrons and Trees

View the colourful rhododendrons at their magnificent best.

Time: 3.00pm



Saturdays in May: 5th 12th, 19th, 26th May.

Guided walk – Learn about meadows

Saturdays in the month of May and the first Saturday of every month during the summer period; discover the joy of strolling through the meadows and the interesting plants that occur throughout the flowering season.

Time: 3.00pm

Free Guided tours

Free guided tours twice daily from April onwards at 12.00pm and 3.00pm. Please check the website or locally for seasonally themed guided tours.

Group tours should be pre booked.

For all tours and events please meet at the car park.

Further information: Jan – March 01 8570909

April onwards 0404 48844

From May onwards

Noticing nature: Explorer Trail for kids

Challenge your kids to complete the explorer trail.

Collect your map and trail from the notice board at the entrance.



Classes & events booking form

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Email:

1.	Growing Green Fingers	€100	from Sat 4 Feb	<input type="radio"/>
2.	Children's Art Workshop	€10	Sat 18 Feb	<input type="radio"/>
3.	Tree Week Dinner & Lecture	€35	Wed 7 March	<input type="radio"/>
4.	Children's Art Workshop	€10	Sat 10 March	<input type="radio"/>
5.	Organic Vegetable Workshop	€20	Sat 10 March	<input type="radio"/>
6.	Planting for Allotments	€20	Sat 31 March	<input type="radio"/>
7.	Children's Art Workshop	€10	Sat 21 April	<input type="radio"/>
8.	Organic Vegetable Workshop	€20	Sat 28 April	<input type="radio"/>
9.	Irish Botany Classes	€100	from Tues 1 May	<input type="radio"/>
10.	Growing Summer Salads	€20	Sat 19 May	<input type="radio"/>
11.	Children's Art Workshop	€10	Sat 19 May	<input type="radio"/>
12.	Pond dipping	Free	Sat. 26 May	<input type="radio"/>
13.	Children's Art Workshop	€10	Sat 9 June	<input type="radio"/>
14.	Pond dipping	Free	Sat 16 June	<input type="radio"/>
15.	Parsley, sage, rosemary & thyme	€20	Sat 16 June	<input type="radio"/>

I have enclosed a cheque for the following amount:

Cheques made payable to the Irish Museums Trust



Opening hours

Guided Tours

Sunday at 12.00pm & 2.30pm, admission free

Monday – Saturday at 3.00pm (from April), €2 per person

Pre-booked groups by arrangement, €2 per person

Winter (October – March)

Mon – Fri: 9.00am – 4.30 pm

Sat & Sun: 10.00am – 4.30 pm

Summer (March – October)

Mon – Fri: 9:00am – 5.00 pm

Sat & Sun: 10.00am – 6.00pm

Telephone: 01 857 0909

Website: www.botanicgardens.ie

Email: botanicgardens@opw.ie

