



Tree & Shrub Trail



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Giant Rhubarb or Gunnera [*Brazil*]

Although it looks a bit like the rhubarb you can grow or buy in shops, Gunnera is not edible and has prickly stems and undersides to its massive leaves. It loves damp and mild climates and likes it so much here in West Cork that it can become invasive.



to
House

TRAIL
STARTS
HERE

1

2

3

4

5

8

6

9

10

7

Stone Arch
entrance to old
Kitchen Garden

Old
Kitchen
Garden

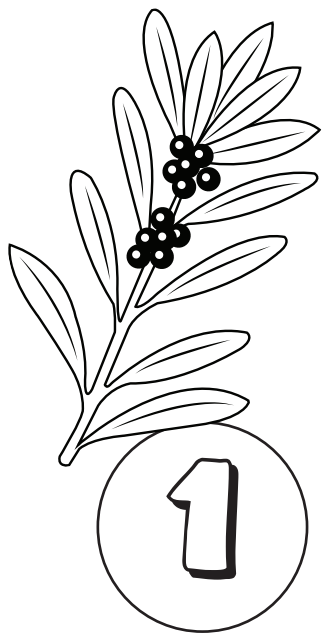
Gate to
Secret Garden

River

Carpark

Follow this trail and learn about ten trees and shrubs from around the world.

Remember the trees and shrubs are here for everyone to enjoy, so please don't pick their leaves or flowers. But do look, smell and touch them!



DESCRIPTION: Bush with shiny leaves and dark red stems.

ACTIVITY: *Crush the leaves to release the aromatic scent. What do you think it smells of?*

Mountain Pepper [Australia]

Did you know? The leaves can be used in cooking to flavour the food.

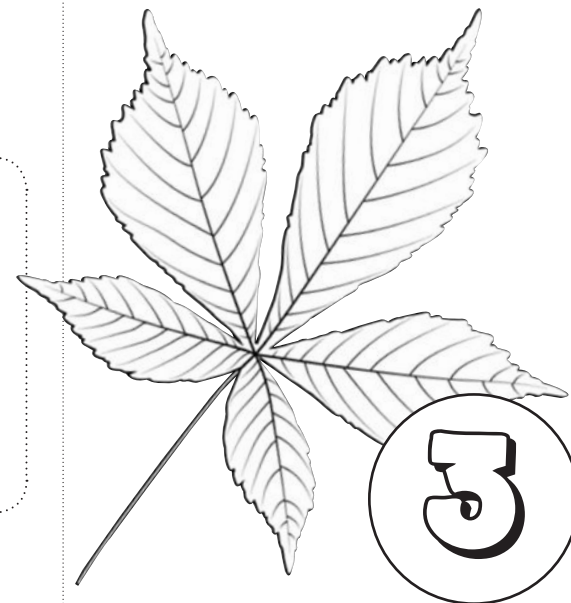


Ash [native] fuinseo

DESCRIPTION: Large tree with grey bark.

ACTIVITY: *Count how many pairs of leaflets there are on each leaf. What colour are the buds?*

Did you know?
Ash is the same family as the Olive tree, and you can press ash seeds to produce an oil which has similar properties to olive oil.



Horse Chestnut [South East Europe] cnō capall

DESCRIPTION: Large tree with distinctive leaves and sticky buds (try touching them!).

ACTIVITY: *Draw a chestnut leaf*

Did you know? The seeds of the horse chestnut are called conkers, but did you know that the conkers and leaves can be used to make soap?



Camellia [Asia]



DESCRIPTION: An evergreen shrub that flowers through winter and into spring.

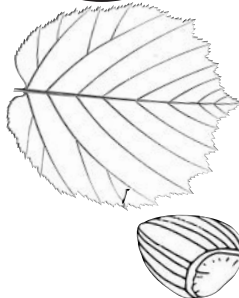
Did you know? Tea leaves used to make your ordinary cup of tea come from a type of camellia bush (*Camellia sinensis*). Most tea comes from Asia and Africa but maybe one day we can drink true Irish tea from locally grown Camellia!



Hazel [native to Ireland] coll

DESCRIPTION: A small tree that produces hazelnuts which may attract red squirrels.

ACTIVITY: *Feel the leaves. Are they smooth or fuzzy?*



Did you know? Hazel used to be coppiced in the winter. This involved cutting the stems for firewood or poles which were used for fencing and building. After cutting, the tree regrows so coppicing is a very sustainable process.



Irish Yew [native to Ireland] IUR



DESCRIPTION: An evergreen conifer with soft needles and red berries. The upright form of Yew seen at Bantry House originated in Fermanagh, Ireland.

Did you know? The oldest tree in Ireland is a Yew. It is about 800 years old, but Yew trees can live for thousands of years. The wood was used by soldiers in medieval times for making shields.

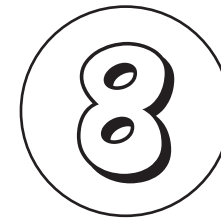


Ginkgo [China]



Bantry House is proud of this Ginkgo tree because it is one of the biggest in Ireland. Ginkgo trees evolved over many thousands of years, from a conifer with needle-like leaves to the tree with fan-shaped leaves we see today. This type of tree is very ancient and was around when dinosaurs roamed the planet.

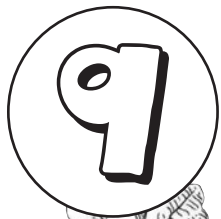
ACTIVITY: *Take a peek through the gate into the secret garden!*



Chilean Myrtle [South America]



DESCRIPTION: An evergreen tree with small leaves and orange bark which makes it look tropical. It has white flowers in summer and produces black berries which birds love.



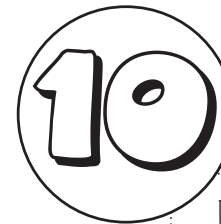
Sessile Oak [native to Ireland] DAIR ghaelach



DESCRIPTION: A grand old oak with a cushion of mosses and ferns on its trunk.

ACTIVITY: *Feel the springy mosses. Take time to note the warm dampness of this area. Does it feel a bit tropical? Look up into the branches of the mighty Oak. Can you see its lobed leaves? Supporting over 280 species of insect, oak is a king of our native woodlands.*

Did you know? West Cork's mild, damp climate is so unique that we have hundreds of different types of lichens, ferns and mosses. Ellen Hutchins (1785-1815) was Ireland's first female botanist and while studying plants she found out how unique West Cork is, discovering many species new to science.



Sycamore [Central Europe & Western Asia] SEICEAMÓIR



DESCRIPTION: A large tree with smooth bark and distinctive seeds that spiral to the ground like helicopter propellers.

Did you know? Like all wildflowers, trees produce pollen and Sycamore pollen is one of the richest in proteins for bees.

ACTIVITY IDEAS

*colour in this leaflet,
make a collection of fallen leaves
you find along the trail,
see if you can draw six
different leaf shapes!*

FOR MORE ON PLANTS/
BOTANY OF BANTRY BAY SEE
www.ellenhutchins.com



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