



Ireland's Wild Plants – Myths, Legends & Folklore

By Niall Mac Coitir

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In ancient Ireland there were 365 different parts to the body, and a different plant to cure each part. So the wild plants of Ireland are bound up in our culture and folklore from the earliest times. To carry a four-leaved shamrock brings luck in gambling, while putting nine ivy leaves under her pillow means a girl will dream of her future husband. Here plants are described in seasonal order, a perspective dating back to our ancestors. Different aspects of plant folklore are examined following a brief history of traditional herbal medicine in Ireland. Included are their roles in magical protection, in charms and spells (especially for love!), as emblems in children's games, and in Irish place names.

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Review

"This work will be relevant for Irish cultural studies and folklore in general, and may also prove beneficial to botanists with an interest in the cultural aspects of plant life." 'A treasury of ancient and interesting information' The Irish Times 'A delightful book' The Irish Garden 'A beautiful book' Books Ireland 'Exquisitely illustrated' Sunday Independent 'A delightful, thoroughly-researched book' Irish Examiner

About the Author

NIALL MACCOITIR grew up in a bilingual environment in Dublin with a love of Irish history, culture and nature instilled into him. After graduating from University College Dublin, he worked for Dublin County Council and now works for Fingal County Council. His interests in folklore led to his first book, Irish Trees - Myths, Legends and Folklore.

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