

BOTANICAL ART WORLDWIDE
LINKING PEOPLE WITH PLANTS THROUGH BOTANICAL ART
2025

WORLDWIDE DAY
OF BOTANICAL ART
A GLOBAL CELEBRATION – MAY 18, 2025

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST, APRIL 2024

INTRODUCTION

Once again, botanical artists around the world will join together to curate simultaneous exhibitions of botanical art to raise awareness of the rejuvenation of this artform and bring attention to plants and their importance to humanity. The 18th of May 2025 has been chosen as the next Worldwide Day of Botanical Art. Exhibitions of original botanical art will be curated by each participating country around the world based on the theme of Heritage Crops. These exhibitions can be live, virtual, or both.

The second Botanical Art Worldwide Project will focus on and celebrate biodiversity in the crops that have been closely associated with the human species over thousands of years. The theme is designed to draw attention to the vast variety of food and useful plants available, in contrast with the relatively few varieties currently used in mass cultivation. Plants eligible for inclusion are those cultivated for food, textiles, building, energy, and medicine.

Currently, many heritage species and varieties are only cultivated in small quantities by specialist growers on a limited scale. It is vital to promote this genetic diversity in a world challenged by a growing population, changing climate, and habitat losses.

Eligible subjects for the project:

Possible subjects include heritage plant cultivars developed by traditional means (selection, hybridization, and propagation) and their wild relatives, as well as ancient heritage crops being brought back into cultivation.

HERITAGE CROPS: Crops that are not used in modern, large scale monocultural agriculture. Crops chosen should have been in cultivation for a minimum of 50 years.

CROP WILD RELATIVES: Wild species that can be hybridized with cultivated crops to impart a new characteristic to the cultivated crop, or that are foraged wild plants.

ANCIENT CROPS: Those that have been cultivated for hundreds or thousands of years in the same form.

PROPOSED APPROACH FROM THE 2024 ISBA COMMITTEE

Context

Ireland previously stated, early in 2023, that we would participate in the worldwide project. In the meantime, committee resources were stretched to meet the demands of the Crainn na hÉireann project. We are coming late to BAW and so would like to gauge the interest of members before deciding whether to participate. As such, we would ask that members read through the information below and consider their interest in taking part. We need to make a decision by the end of April 2024 at the latest, if we are to run a successful project. If you would like to take part, it is essential that you return the expression of interest form (attached separately) so that we know whether we have enough participants to proceed.

Theme

As Ireland has a very limited range of heritage or ancient crops, we are proposing to approach the project using **CROP WILD RELATIVES**. If we go ahead, we need a name for the Irish exhibition.

Research published in 2009 by Tom Curtis¹ identified a list of 162 species in Ireland, to be included as crop wild relatives for conservation of plant genetic resources in Ireland. This broad list includes grasses, legumes, brassicas, trees, shrubs, coastal plants, and others. It is mostly made up of native plants, with some introduced species that have naturalised here.

Time frame

We are under a tight frame and will be asking for work to be submitted in March 2025, actual date TBC. There will be no extension beyond the end of March.

Brief

Due to the tight time frame and 'project fatigue' that some of us may have after the huge effort of the tree project, we are suggesting a very loose brief. The plant chosen must be from the list provided. However, we are not putting a restriction on how much of the plant should be depicted, or whether it is life-size or to scale. We are also allowing people to pick whatever species they like from the list (be aware that this may lead to more than one depiction of the same species, by different artists).

Our hope is that this approach will make the project achievable for as many members as possible within the short time available. If members have an existing work of one of the listed species, they are free to submit this rather than starting a new work, for example a relevant species from the tree project.

We are suggesting that focusing on fruits or seeds of your chosen species would be an approach that would give the maximum lead-in time, as we don't have a full growing season.

Adjudication

The work will be adjudicated in April 2025. Tom Curtis has agreed to be a botanical adjudicator. Artist adjudicator TBC.

¹ Curtis, T. 2009. Final Report on the Project: *The production of a priority list of crop wild relatives for Ireland*. Irish Department of Agriculture.

Only two-dimensional original botanical art is accepted. No photography, no digitally generated work, and no three-dimensional work will be accepted.

Only works on paper will be accepted. We would ask that artists use extra white paper as this is the best for reproduction in a catalogue. The maximum size is A2. We are working to set a minimum size that will work for scanning and reproduction. If someone wants to paint in gouache on coloured paper, please get in touch with us to discuss.

Exhibition

If we get the go-ahead from you, the members, we will discuss whether we have the human resources to carry a live exhibition, particularly around invigilation. We will have a virtual event on May 18th 2025.

International members please note you may take part in the Irish exhibition as long as you do not exhibit in the worldwide project in any other participating country.

HELP FOR ARTISTS

Our aim is to use this project as a focus to run events through the year. As the plant list is broad, this will facilitate a range of events that should be of interest beyond the project.

- ❖ We are holding a workshop on field recording on Saturday 11th May at Claregalway, Co. Galway, as part of the Claregalway weekend. This will be relevant to the project and we should see some of the species in flower at that time.
- ❖ We will host a Zoom 'plant clinic,' where people can discuss their preferred plant and get help with finding it, if necessary. Date TBC but asap if project goes ahead.
- ❖ Tom Curtis is available to lead a field trip and have a chat about the plants. This will be organised for mid-late June, date and venue TBC but we are looking at holding it in the midlands to facilitate members from around the country.
- ❖ We will host a trip to Irish Seed Savers Association, in Scariff, Co. Clare. The ISSA is the main voluntary organisation in Ireland conserving and growing heritage crops, fruits and vegetables, and also holds a seed bank of heritage varieties. Date TBC but possibly closer to autumn to see ripe fruits.
- ❖ Excellent data on all species can be found on the map system of the National Biodiversity Data Centre at <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Map>. Click on 'add new species' and start typing in your species in English or Latin name, and choose from the list that comes up. You can then zoom in on the coloured squares where the plant has been recorded.
- ❖ The website of the BSBI plant atlas is also recommended, for context on species: <https://plantatlas2020.org/> - go to the 'Atlas' tab and put the species name in the search box.

PLANT LIST

We have attached a plant list which lists a wide range of Ireland's native plants, with some non-native species. Many are well known but there are some plants that are less common or rare.

The plants have been assigned a 'status' on the list to help with background.

- ❖ Native: understood to have reached Ireland by natural dispersal.
- ❖ FPO: protected under the Flora Protection Order (Republic of Ireland).
- ❖ W(NI)O: protected under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order.
- ❖ VU, EN: categorised as vulnerable or endangered in the Irish Red Data Book of vascular plants.
- ❖ Introduced: all species marked with an asterisk * are understood to be introduced, intentionally or unintentionally, by humans, *or* have spread from an area where they are already an introduction.
- ❖ Archaeophyte: an introduced species which became naturalised before 1500.
- ❖ Neophyte: an introduced species which was first introduced after 1500, or was present as a casual before then and was re-introduced.
- ❖ Casual: an introduced species of which populations fail to persist in the wild.

Note: some of these plants are rare and/or protected, as shown on the list, and are part of a very small gene pool for conservation. Native plants with small populations should not be picked, dug up, or otherwise interfered with – use photographs and field notes to record plants.

A small note of caution on choosing your plant: If we had more time, the list might have been refined to use only native plants and archaeophytes. Some of the neophytes are long-established in our flora and associated with human cultivation for generations, e.g. wild plum. Others are more recent and are not plants that we would associate with Irish heritage crops, e.g. sunflower, Italian rye-grass. By emphasising species that are native or long-established here, we will have an entry that reflects Ireland's unique heritage in the global exhibition.

Irish Crop wild relative plant list for Botanical Art Worldwide 2025 (Irish names will be added if we are going ahead with the project)

Common name	Scientific name	Plant type/family	Status
Lesser burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>		Native
Ground elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>		*Archaeophyte
Creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Common bent	<i>Agrostis tenuis</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Babington's leek	<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i> var. <i>babingtonii</i>	Vegetable	*Archaeophyte
Chives	<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	Vegetable	Native, FPO
Ramsons	<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Vegetable	Native
Meadow Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Marsh-mallow	<i>Althaea officinalis</i>	Herb	*Neophyte, native in Britain
Angelica	<i>Angelica archangelica</i>	Herb	*Neophyte, native in Britain
Wild Celery	<i>Apium graveolens</i>	Vegetable	Native
Horse-radish	<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	Brassica	*Archaeophyte
False Oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Wild Asparagus	<i>Asparagus prostratus</i>	Vegetable	Native, FPO, EN
Garden asparagus	<i>Asparagus officinalis</i> subsp. <i>officinalis</i>	Vegetable	*Archaeophyte
Wild-oat	<i>Avena fatua</i>	Grass/cereal	*Archaeophyte
Oat	<i>Avena sativa</i>	Grass/cereal	*Crop, casual
Bristle Oat	<i>Avena strigosa</i>	Grass/cereal	*Casual
Medium-flowered Winter-cress	<i>Barbarea intermedia</i>	Brassica	*Neophyte
American Winter-cress	<i>Barbarea verna</i>	Brassica	*Neophyte
Winter-cress	<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Brassica	Native
Barberry	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	Fruit (bush)	Native
Sea Beet	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>Maritima</i>	Vegetable	Native
Borage	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Herb	*Neophyte, casual
Rape	<i>Brassica napus</i>	Brassica	Neophyte
Black Mustard	<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Brassica	Native

Wild Cabbage	<i>Brassica oleracea</i>	Brassica	*Neophyte, native in Britain
Wild Turnip	<i>Brassica rapa</i>	Brassica	Native
Gold-of-pleasure	<i>Camelina sativa</i>	Brassica	*Archaeophyte
Chamomile	<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	Herb	Native, NT
Fat-hen	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Herb	Native
Good-King-Henry	<i>Chenopodium bonus-henricus</i>	Herb	*Archaeophyte
Chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Vegetable	*Archaeophyte
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Tree	Native
Sea-kale	<i>Crambe maritima</i>	Vegetable	Native, W(NI)O, NT,
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Fruit (tree)	Native
Rock Samphire	<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Vegetable	Native
Crested Dog's-tail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Vegetable	Native
Annual Wall-rocket	<i>Diplotaxis muralis</i>	Brassica	*Neophyte
Perennial wall-rocket	<i>Diplotaxis tenuifolia</i>	Brassica	*Neophyte
Bearded Couch	<i>Elymus caninus</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Sea Couch	<i>Elymus pycnanthus</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Sand couch	<i>Elymus farctus</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Common Couch	<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Tall Fescue	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Giant Fescue	<i>Festuca gigantea</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Various-leaved Fescue	<i>Festuca heterophylla</i>	Grass/cereal	*Neophyte
Sheep's-fescue	<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Meadow Fescue	<i>Festuca pratensis</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Herb	*Archaeophyte
Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Fruit (soft)	Native
(Sunflower)	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>		*Neophyte

Sea buckthorn	<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>		*Neophyte, native in Britain
Wall Barley	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Grass/cereal	*Archaeophyte
Meadow Barley	<i>Hordeum secalinum</i>	Grass/cereal	Native, FPO, VU
Six-rowed Barley	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	Grass/cereal	*Crop, casual
Hop	<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Fruit (bush)	*Neophyte, native in Britain
Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Fruit (tree)	Native, W(NI)O
Field Pepperwort	<i>Lepidium campestre</i>	Brassica	*Archaeophyte
Hoary cress	<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Brassica	*Neophyte
Smith's Pepperwort	<i>Lepidium heterophyllum</i>	Brassica	Native
Dittander	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Brassica	*Neophyte, VU, native in Britain
Garden Cress	<i>Lepidium sativum</i>	Brassica	*Casual
Lovage	<i>Levisticum officinale</i>	Herb	*Neophyte
Lyme-grass	<i>Leymus arenarius</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Scot's lovage	<i>Ligusticum scoticum</i>	Herb	Native
Flax	<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>		*Neophyte
Italian Rye-grass	<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	Grass/cereal	*Neophyte
Perennial Rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Darnel	<i>Lolium temulentum</i>	Grass/cereal	*Archaeophyte
Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Legume	Native
Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Legume	Native
Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus subbiflorus</i>	Legume	Native, FPO, NT
Narrow-leaved lupin	<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>	Legume	*Neophyte
Duke of Argyll's teaplant/Gojii berry	<i>Lycium barbarum, L. chinense</i>	Fruit (bush)	*Neophyte
Apple	<i>Malus domestica</i>	Fruit (tree)	*Archaeophyte
Crab Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Fruit (tree)	Native
Common mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>		*Archaeophyte
(Tree Medick)	<i>Medicago arborea</i>	Legume	* Neophyte, one record
Sickle Medick	<i>Medicago sativa</i> subsp. <i>falcata</i>	Legume	*Hybrid
Lucerne	<i>Medicago sativa</i> subsp. <i>sativa</i>	Legume	*Neophyte

Sand Lucerne	<i>Medicago sativa</i> subsp. <i>varia</i>	Legume	*Hybrid
White Melilot	<i>Melilotus albus</i>	Legume	*Neophyte
Ribbed Melilot	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Legume	*Neophyte
Lemon balm	<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	Herb	*Neophyte
Water Mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Herb	Native
Peppermint	<i>Mentha x piperita</i>	Herb	*Garden escape, hybrid
Pennyroyal	<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	Herb	Native, W(NI)O
Corn Mint	<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	Herb	Native
Corsican Mint	<i>Mentha requienii</i>	Herb	*Neophyte
Spear Mint	<i>Mentha spicata</i>	Herb	*Archaeophyte
Round-leaved Mint	<i>Mentha suaveolens</i>	Herb	*Neophyte
Bushy mint	<i>Mentha x gracilis</i>	Herb	*Hybrid
Apple-mint	<i>Mentha x villosa</i>	Herb	*Hybrid
Bog-myrtle	<i>Myrica gale</i>		Native
Sweet cicely	<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>	Herb	*Neophyte
Water-cress	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i> agg.	Herb	Native
Narrow-fruited water-cress	<i>Nasturtium microphyllum</i>	Herb	Native
Hybrid water-cress	<i>Nasturtium x sterile</i>	Herb	Native
(Sainfoin)	<i>Onobrychis x sterile</i>		*Neophyte
Wild Marjoram	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Herb	Native
Wild Parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Vegetable	*Naturalised, native in Britain
Garden parsley	<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	Herb	*Archaeophyte
Reed Canary-grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Alpine Meadow-grass	<i>Poa alpina</i>	Grass/cereal	Native, EN
Annual Meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Smooth Meadow-grass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Grass/cereal	Native
Common bistort	<i>Polygonum bistorta</i>		Native
Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	Fruit (tree)	Native

Dwarf Cherry	<i>Prunus cerasus</i>	Fruit (tree)	*Archaeophyte
Cherry plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Fruit (tree)	*Neophyte
Wild Plum	<i>Prunus domestica</i>	Fruit (tree)	*Archaeophyte
Bird Cherry	<i>Prunus padus</i>	Fruit (tree)	Native
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Fruit (bush)	Native
Wild pear	<i>Prunus communis</i> incl. <i>P. pyraster</i>	Fruit (tree)	*Neophyte
Sea Radish	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> subsp. <i>maritimus</i>	Brassica	Native
Wild Radish	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> subsp. <i>raphanistrum</i>	Brassica	*Archaeophyte
Black Currant	<i>Ribes nigrum</i>	Fruit (bush)	*Neophyte
Red Currant	<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	Fruit (bush)	*Neophyte
Gooseberry	<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	Fruit (bush)	*Neophyte
Dog-rose	<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.		Native
Dewberry	<i>Rubus caesius</i>	Fruit (bush)	Native
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Fruit (bush)	Native
Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Fruit (bush)	Native
Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Herb	Native
French Sorrel	<i>Rumex scutatus</i>	Herb	*Neophyte
Common Glasswort	<i>Salicornia europaea</i>	Coastal	Native
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Fruit (tree)	Native
(Rye)	<i>Secale cereale</i>	Grass/cereal	*Crop, casual
White Mustard	<i>Sinapis alba</i>	Brassica	*Archaeophyte
Charlock	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Brassica	*Archaeophyte
Alexanders	<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>		*Archaeophyte
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Tree	Native
Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>		*Neophyte, native in Britain
Wild Thyme	<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	Herb	Native
Salsify	<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Vegetable	*Neophyte

Hare's-foot Clover	<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Legume	Native
Alsike Clover	<i>Trifolium hybridum subsp. hybridum</i>	Legume	*Neophyte
(Crimson clover)	<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	Legume	*Neophyte
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Legume	Native
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Legume	Native
Reversed Clover	<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Legume	*Neophyte
Subterranean Clover	<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i>	Legume	Native, FPO, VU
Bread Wheat	<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	Grass/cereal	*Crop, casual
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>		Native
Bilberry	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Fruit (bush)	Native
Cranberry	<i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i>	Fruit (bush)	Native
Cowberry	<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	Fruit (bush)	Native
Common Cornsalad	<i>Valerianella locusta</i>	Herb	Native
Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Legume	Native
Hairy Tare	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Legume	Native
Spring Vetch	<i>Vicia lathyroides</i>	Legume	Native
Wood Bitter-vetch	<i>Vicia orobus</i>	Legume	Native, FPO, W(NI)O
Common Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa subsp. sativa</i>	Legume	*Archaeophyte
Narrow-leaved Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa subsp. nigra</i>	Legume	Native
Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa subsp. segetalis</i>	Legume	*Archaeophyte
Bush Vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Legume	Native
Wood Vetch	<i>Vicia sylvatica</i>	Legume	Native

References (The list of plants and their status was compiled from the following sources. Any mistakes are my own (Mieke Brosnan))

List of Crop Wild Relatives for Ireland 27th April 2017. Tom Curtis, personal communication

The Wild Food Plants of Ireland. 2019. Tom Curtis and Paul Whelan

Webb's An Irish Flora. Eighth edition 2012. John Parnell and Tom Curtis eds.

Plant Atlas 2020. Mapping Changes in the Distribution of the British and Irish Flora. 2023. P. A. Stroh, K. J. Walker, T. A. Humphrey, O. L. Pescott & R. J. Burkmar. (<https://plantatlas2020.org/index.php/>)

The Wildflowers of Ireland. Second edition 2021. Zoë Devlin (www.wildflowersofireland.net)

Species mapping website of the National Biodiversity Data Centre: maps.biodiversityireland.ie

Wyse Jackson, M., FitzPatrick, Ú., Cole, E., Jebb, M., McFerran, D., Sheehy Skeffington, M. & Wright, M. (2016) *Ireland Red List No. 10: Vascular Plants*. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Dublin, Ireland.