Bogs of County Roscommon

Plantlife of Bogs

Bogs are a rich source of plantlife and offer a variety of habitats. Many bog species are adapted to the conditions of low oxygen and nutrient-poor soils. Some common bog plants include Sphagnum moss, heather, and discomycetes. These plants are crucial for the structure and function of the bog ecosystem.

Sphagnum Moss

Sphagnum moss is the most characteristic plant of bogs in Ireland. It is a small, hair-like plant that thrives in wet, acidic conditions. Sphagnum moss holds water and is important for the stability of the bog surface. Without it, bogs would erode and lose their unique ecosystem.

Heather

Heather is the most characteristic plant of bogs in Ireland, and it can be traced through cores containing pollen and seeds from bogs. After the last ice age, about 10,000 years ago, many small lakes were created in former lake basins. These are now heather moors, and they are very common. The heather canopy is an important feature of the bog landscape.

Wildlife of Bogs

Bogs are home to a diverse array of wildlife including wildflowers, butterflies, birds, and insects. Bogs are important for the survival of many species, and they provide a crucial habitat for many wildlife species.

Carnivorous Plants

Carnivorous plants are unique because they derive their nutrition from other organisms. In Ireland, butterworts, sundews, and bladderworts are the most common species of carnivorous plants. These plants have adapted by using sticky glue to capture insects.

Insects & Dragonflies

Insects and dragonflies are abundant in bogs. Some insects, like flies, are insects that mainly hunt in the water. Others, like butterflies and dragonflies, are insects that live above the water. Both are important to the bog ecosystem.

Types of Bogs

There are several different types of bogs in Ireland, each with its own unique characteristics. These types include raised bogs, blanket bogs, and fen bogs. These bog types are important for the survival of many species and provide a crucial habitat for many wildlife species.

Blanket Bog

Blanket bogs are a type of bog that has a blanket of moss and is not raised above the ground. These bogs are characterized by a wide range of plant and animal species. Blanket bogs can be found in many parts of Ireland, and they are an important part of the bog ecosystem.

Raised Bog

Raised bogs are a type of bog that has a raised area above the surrounding land. These bogs are characterized by a wide range of plant and animal species. Raised bogs can be found in many parts of Ireland, and they are an important part of the bog ecosystem.

Fen Bog

Fen bogs are a type of bog that has a raised area above the surrounding land. These bogs are characterized by a wide range of plant and animal species. Fen bogs can be found in many parts of Ireland, and they are an important part of the bog ecosystem.

History of Bogs in Ireland

After the last ice age about 12,000 years ago, many small lakes were created in the landscape of central and southern Ireland. These lakes were later drained by the action of the sea, and the resulting landscape of the Irish landscape can be traced through core containing pollen and seeds from bogs.

Some bogs are designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under EU or Irish legislation.

Some bogs in County Roscommon

Bellanagare

Cloonchambers (Cloonfowl)

Cloonoeagh (Roscommon)

Cranberry (Ballinasloe)

Knockaviear

Corry Mountain

(North Roscommon)

Elkeenan (Roscommon)

Kilronan Mountain

(North Roscommon)

Mount Dillon (Roscommon)


designed as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under EU or Irish legislation. These areas are also designated under EU or Irish legislation.

Produced by Roscommon County Council © 2010

www.roscosmonncco.ie

For generations peat has been harvested from the bogs of County Roscommon to provide fuel for homes and heating. In early summer the peat is cut into sods and left to dry in the sun. After a few weeks of drying the sods are harvested after drying the peat is cut into sods. The sods are handled and transported to storage until required.
Look around you and see the wonderful selection of flowers & wildlife in our beautiful bogs...