

Creeping Thistle

Habitat Hero



Green-Schools

An Taisce

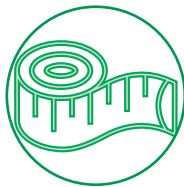


Common Name: Creeping Thistle
Irish Name: Feochadán reatha
Scientific Name: *Cirsium arvense*

Seen in Ireland:

Flower: June – September

Fruit: Seeds disperse in Autumn



The Creeping Thistle plant can grow up to 150 cm, in large groups of plants. They have thickened roots that send up several shoots during the growing season.



This wildflower grows in grasslands and waste places. They are visited by lots of insects looking to drink its sweet nectar. During these visits, the insects bring pollen and pollinate the flowers

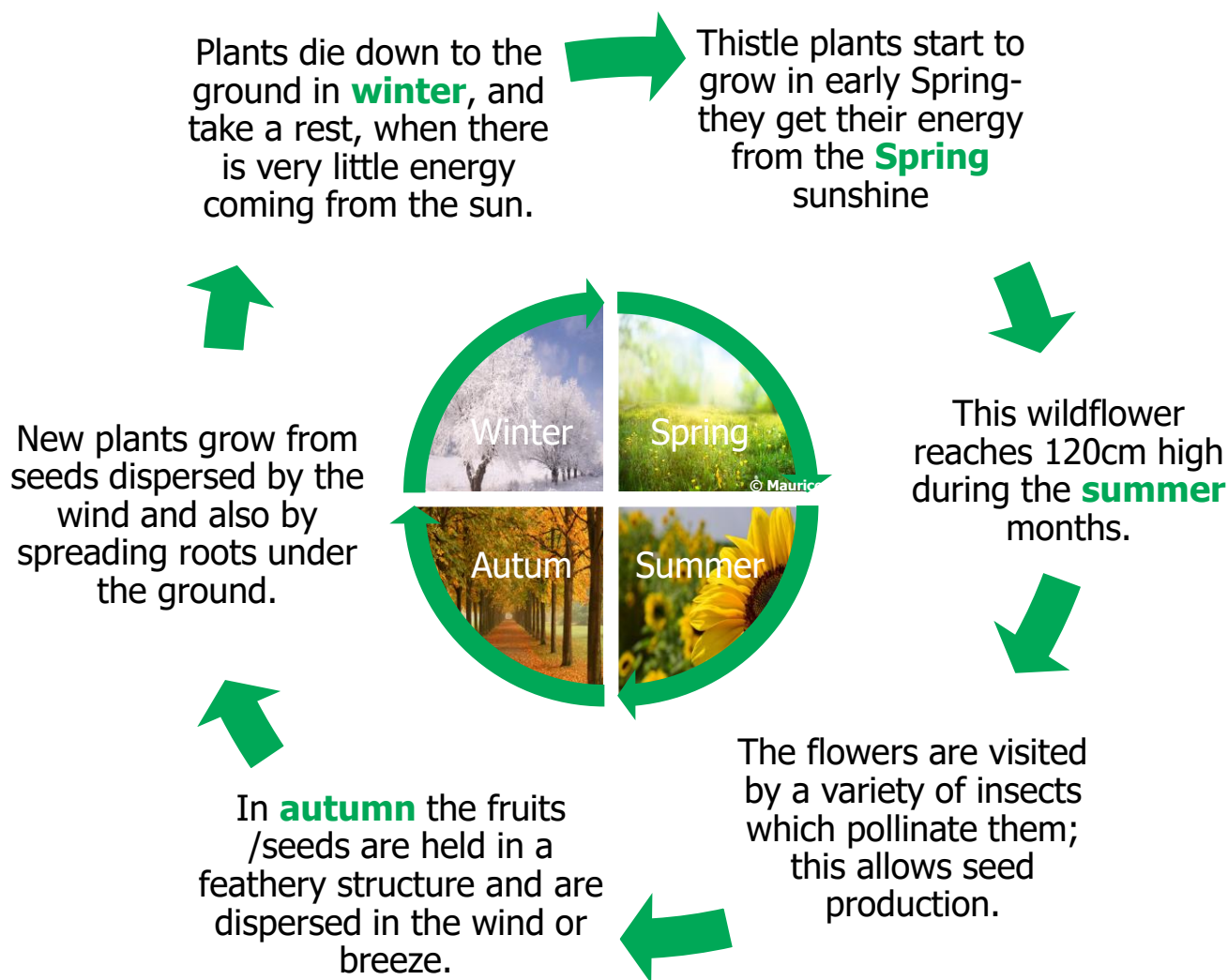


It grows in almost all soil types, but it likes nutrient-rich, deep clay soils that keeps water well best. Photosynthesis is the process in which green plants use sunlight to make their own food.



Creeping thistle overwinters as a root and sprouts again in spring. Creeping thistle seed can stay ready to grow in undisturbed soil for over 20 years

Creeping Thistle Life Cycle



Creeping Thistle

Some more Facts:

- A very common plant.
- Unlike the other types of thistles, the upright stems are spineless.
- The leaves can be cottony underneath.
- Flowers are lilac coloured (15-25mm across) arranged in fragrant (nice smelling!) clusters.
- Take time to make sure not to confuse this with Marsh Thistle and Slender Thistle; both have spiny stalks so you'll know the difference!
- The Creeping Thistle is one of our most troublesome plants!
- Landowners and farmers often have trouble keeping them off their land.
- This is because the plant can spread just by growing more roots, which then produce shoots, which grow into new plants.
- Also, they are too prickly for most animals to eat! Clever plants!
- DO NOT TOUCH a thistle unless you are wearing rubber gloves!!
- The thistle's sharp needle-like leaves can puncture your skin!

