

Ash

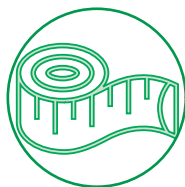
Habitat Hero



Common Name: Ash
Irish Name: Fuinseog
Scientific Name: Fraxinus excelsior

Seen in Ireland:

Flowers: Spring
Fruits: Late summer
Leaves: Late to arrive in spring
and quick to drop in autumn



Ash trees can grow up to 40-45 m tall. Their leaves grow as leaflets with several leaves growing from the same stem, growing 20-35cm in length.



Ash trees are common and widespread throughout Ireland. They are often seen in hedgerows and in woodlands as well as in parks and gardens and school grounds.

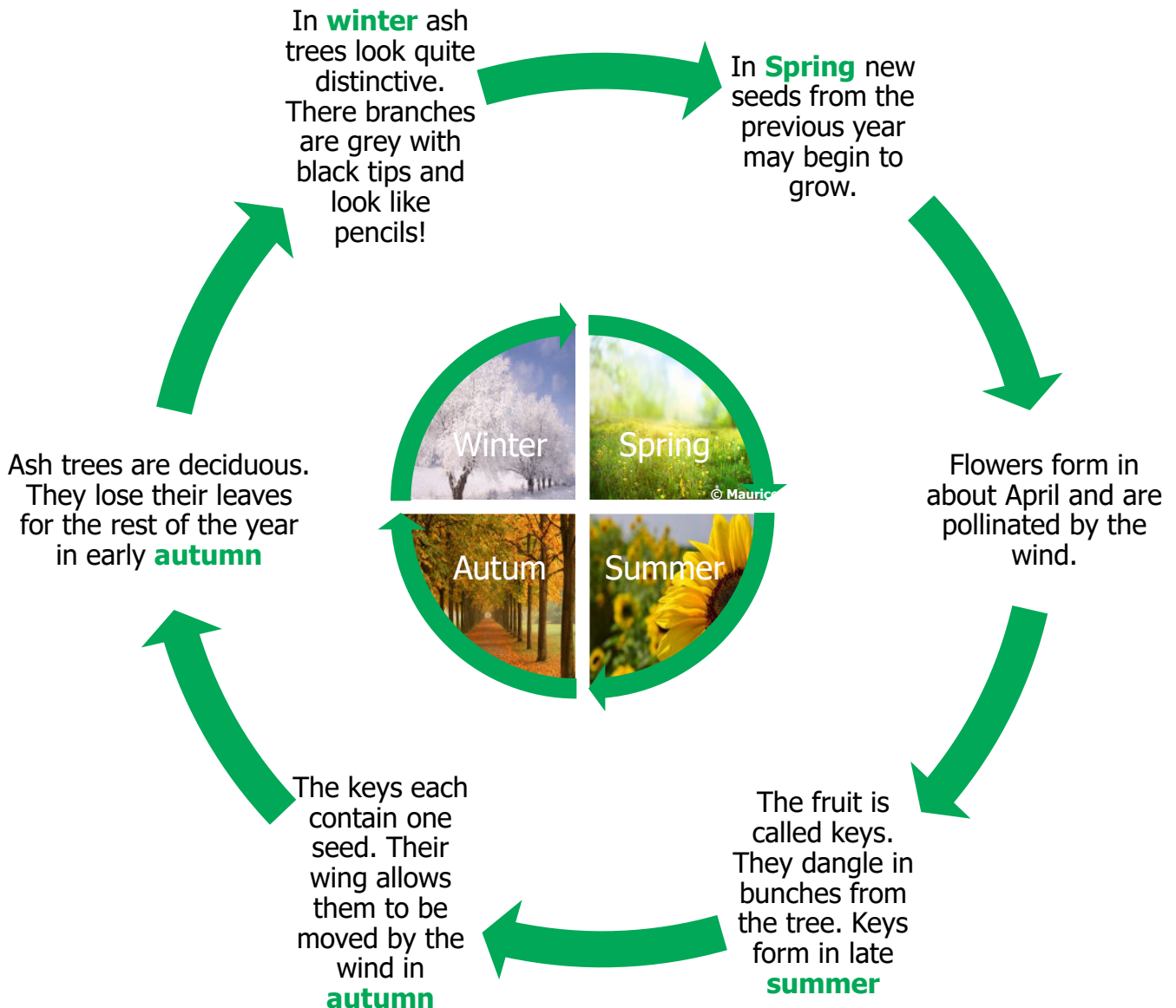


They grow in various soil types but flourish in fertile, deep, and well-drained soils, particularly in cooler climates. **Photosynthesis** is the process in which green plants use sunlight to make their own food



Ash Trees can live for 350 years, most will reach 200, and after this age they are considered to be ancient ash.

Ash Life Cycle



Ash

Some more Facts:

- Ash are 40-45 meters tall.
- They have a greyish bark.
- Their leaves grow as leaflets with several leaves growing from the same stem.
- Their seeds are called keys and hang down in bunches.
- They look like one wing of the helicopter seed.
- They start off green and turn brown before falling off.
- The wood from Ash trees is extremely dense and because of that it is often used in furniture making and to make hurley and camogie sticks.
- Ash trees are very important for animals living in the same ecosystem. They support a huge variety of insect species. Their keys are also an important food source for birds, squirrels and mice.
- Ash trees are **dioecious**.
- This means that trees are either male or female (have only male or female flowers) although some trees can have male and female flowers on different branches.
- Only female trees will produce fruit (keys). This is slightly unusual, but holly trees are another example of a tree which will be either male or female.
- Although ash is widespread in Ireland these trees are under threat.
- Ash trees are at risk of a fungal infection called "ash dieback".
- This has become widespread throughout Europe. It causes discolouration of the bark and leaves, dieback of the shoots and branches and can lead to the death of the tree.
- A small number of trees are **resistant** (able to fight off the infection).

