

Cleavers

Habitat Hero



Common Name: Cleavers
Irish Name: Garbhluas
Scientific Name: *Martes martes*
Other names:
 Robin-run-the Hedge , Goosegrass and Sticky backs

Seen in Ireland:

Flowers: May – September

Fruits: July - November



Cleavers have creeping straggling stems which branch and grow along the ground and over other plants. The stems can reach up to 3 feet (0.91 m) or longer and are angular or square shaped.



This plant is widespread throughout Ireland. It is usually found in hedgerows, wasteland, crop fields and gardens.

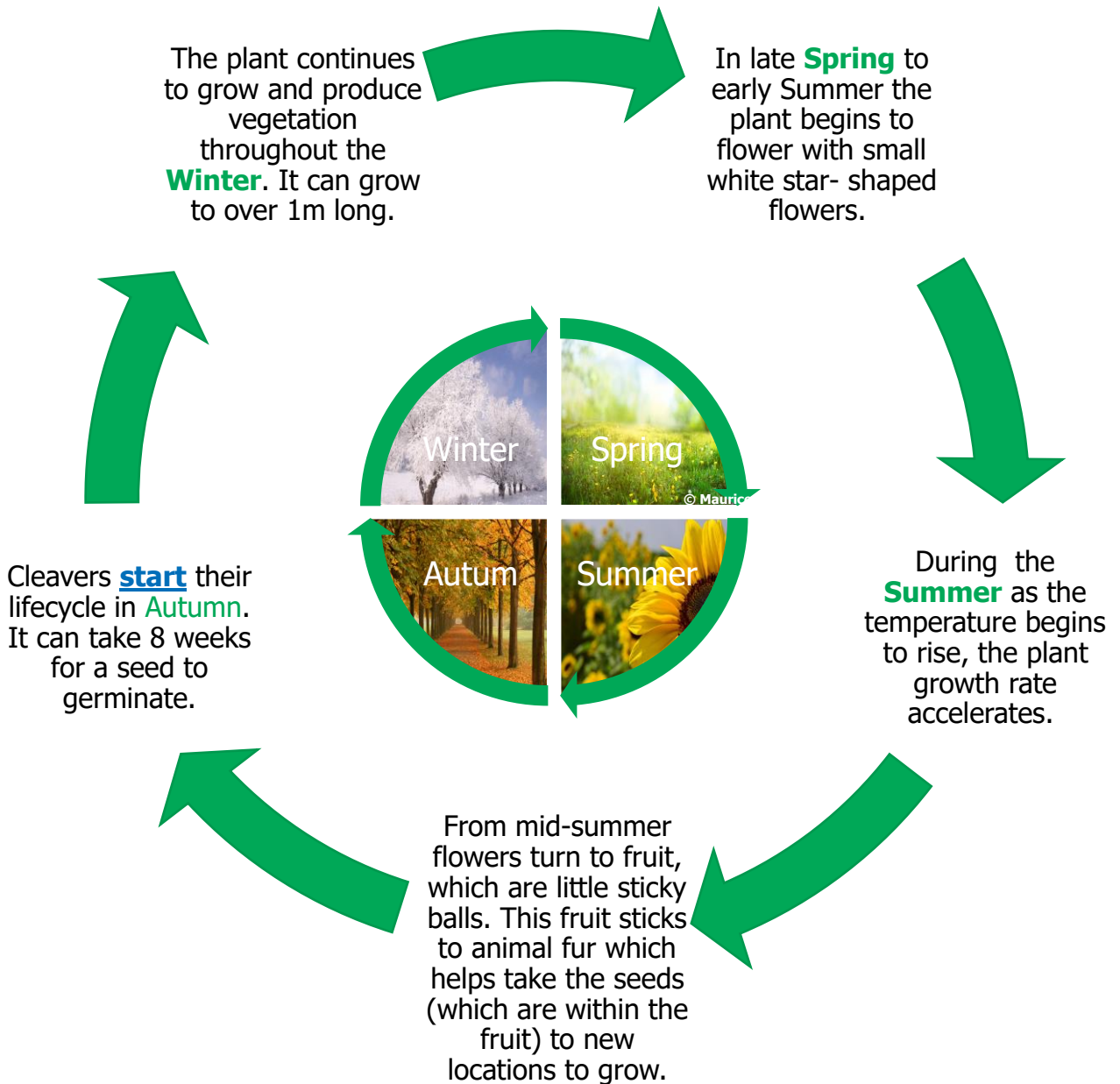


Cleavers grow best in nutrient rich soil, and like a lot of water. Cleavers make their own food through Photosynthesis. E.g. plants use sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide to create oxygen and energy in the form of sugar.



The is a small "annual" plant - a plant that completes its life cycle, from germination to the production of seeds, within one year, and then dies.

Cleavers Life Cycle



Cleavers

Some more Facts:

- Cleavers flower from May to September producing tiny white star flowers.
- Its fruits are small balls, covered with tiny bristles.
- Its angular stems also have bristles and can grow up to 1m long.
- The leaves of this plant are long and narrow. They are found in clusters along the stem and they have bristles on their underside.
- The name comes from the fact that it can 'cleave' or stick to anything it comes in contact with.
- This helps to spread the plant far and wide, for example its sticky seeds can attach themselves to animal fur, bird feathers and even our own clothing.
- The bristles found all over the plant enable it to attach itself to other plants and to the ground, which helps support it as it grows.
- Cleavers comes from the same family as the coffee plant; some people roast the seeds and use them as a caffeine-free alternative to coffee!



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