

Buinidh an creamh ri srath na Mara Meadhanaich timcheall air ceann an iar-dheas na h-Eòrpa agus ceann a tuath Afraga. Agus e na dhìthean àlainn, thathar air a chlàradh anns an RA mar ghnè choigreach sgaoilteach fo Sgeideal 9. Chaidh a chlàradh mar lus fiadhain ann an Alba ann an 1981 an toiseach le barrachd chlàran bho 2010 air adhart, agus tha e a' nochdadh ann an còig-deug ceàrnagan 10km a-nis.

An-dràsta, tha e car ainneamh, ach bidh e a' sgaoileadh gu luath bho ghàrraidhean agus faodaidh tuineachadh ionadail a bhith bras agus dona do na gnèithean dùthchasach seach gum bi e a' cur na ruaige orra air fad. Tha iomadh clàr ann de raointean ùra de dh'fhearann-coille fo bhròg na cuthaige agus àrainnean saidhbhir dùthchasach a chaidh a mhùchadh gu tur. Tha ìre an tuineachaidh annasach agus sgriosail – agus a rèir choltais thèid aige air còmhnaidh ann am farsaingeachd àrainnean – raointean, stallachan agus dùin-ghainmhich nam measg a bharrachd air sgaoileadh bho ghàrraidhean is bho thorran-sgudail mu challaidean. Tha e air fàs stèidhichte ann an eileanan ann an Alba far a bheil e a' fàs na dhragh.

Three-cornered Leek

Creamh Trì-cheàrnach

Allium triquetrum

Tha am blàth geal suaicheanta aige, an dreach coltach ri bròg na cuthaige agus fàileadh a' chreamha a' ciallachadh gun aithnichear e gu soirbh agus e (gu leibideach) a' fàs nas lionmhoire agus nas motha na dhuilgheadas a thaobh glèidhteachais air feadh na dùthcha. Fàsaidh e na chomharra cudromach den tuath – gun oidhirpean dealasach cur às dha far a bheil e air fàs stèidhichte, agus a' cur cuideam air cho sgaoilteach agus a tha e le luchd-gàirneilearachd. Tha e an aghaidh an lagha an lus seo fhàs, no leigeil leis fàs, san fhàsach ach gabhaidh e ceannach gun strì fhathast bho chlàran ghàrraidhean is lusan – gu tric gun rabhadh sam bith mun sgaoilteachd na lùib, agus nach bu chòir leigeil leis èaladh!

Gabhaidh an lus gu lèir ithe agus thathar a' gabhail ris gu bheil an aon bhuidh a thaobh leigheis aige ris a' chreamh fhèin, a tha na Gàidheil air a bhith a' moladh bho shean mar leigheas. Math dh'fhaodte gun rachadh againn air a chumail fo smachd...ma thèid againn air gu leòr dheth ithe.

*air cho gasta geal 's grinn,
seall, creamh nan trì ceàrn
a' cur às dhan fhàs bho shean*

82

NOTES

“Creamh” is the generic Gaelic name for garlic, wild leeks and wild onions. “Tri-cheàrnach” means three-cornered.

“Is leigheas air gach tinn,
Creamh is im a' Mhàigh.”

*Garlic with May butter,
Cures all diseases*

*air cho gasta geal 's grinn,
seall, creamh nan trì ceàrn
a' cur às dhan fhàs bho shean*

however bonny and white and bright, look, the three-cornered leek displacing the old growth

The three-cornered leek is native to the Mediterranean basin around southwest Europe and northern Africa. A beautiful flower, it has been listed in the UK as a Schedule 9, non-native, invasive species. It was first recorded growing wild in 1981 in Scotland with many more records from 2010 onwards, and it now occurs in some fifteen 10km squares.

At the moment, it is relatively uncommon, but it spreads quickly from gardens, and local colonisation can be rapid and very bad news for native species as it completely displaces them. There are many records of large areas of bluebell woodland and rich, native habitats that have been entirely smothered. The rate of colonisation is remarkable and devastating – the plant seems able to occupy very diverse habitats including fields, sea cliffs and sand-dunes as well as spreading from gardens and rubbish tips along hedgerows. It has become established on Scottish islands where it is quickly becoming a concern.

Its unmistakable white flower, bluebell-like appearance and garlic smell means that it will become easily recognisable as it (unfortunately) becomes more prevalent and more of a conservation problem across the country. Without determined efforts to stamp it out where it has become established and highlighting its extremely invasive nature to gardeners, it will become a significant and notable aspect of the countryside. It is illegal to grow, or allow this plant to grow, in the wild but it can still be readily bought from garden and plant catalogues – often without any warning of its invasiveness, and must not be allowed to escape!

The entire plant is edible and presumably has the same medicinal effects as wild garlic, which has been long praised by the Gaels for its curative properties. Perhaps we have a chance of containing it...if we can eat enough of it.