

SPECIES OF THE WEEK



Bloody Crane's-bill

Geranium sanguineum
Crohb dearg

Bloody crane's-bill is a species of flowering herbaceous perennial plant in the family Geraniaceae. It is native to Europe and temperate Asia. In Ireland, it is found in the Burren, Co. Clare, where it grows in rocky places, banks and hollows in the limestone pavements. It flowers between June and August.

The bloody crane's-bill has bright reddish-purple, five-petalled flowers which measure 2 - 3 cm across. Each flower grows on its own individual, hairy stem. The leaves are round but divided into between five and seven lobes. The fruits, as in all crane's-bills, end in long-pointed "beaks" which split into five seeds. When the flowers first appear on this plant, they are magenta in colour, but they eventually fade to a violet hue. The stamens also change colour during the lifetime of the plant; they start off with bright blue anthers which shed their colour when they shed their pollen. The leaves also become a rusty-red colour in the autumn.

Bloody crane's-bill is also sometimes cultivated in gardens.