



# Nature's Web

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Autumn is harvest time. A time when farmers see the benefits of their hard work. Having prepared the ground, sowed the seeds and tended the plants through the year, they can now reap the rewards.

Though humans farm the land to provide food, they also collect food from nature, such as blackberries, elderberries and mushrooms, some of which can be preserved by freezing, drying or making jams. Many of these foods are now available in plentiful supply in shops but some people prefer the flavour of those that are found in nature.

Autumn is also harvest time for many animals. Plants and trees have been producing seeds for reproduction. Animals are delighted with the fine display of food and take full advantage of the vast menu on offer. They must begin building up their stores of fat to help them survive through the long winter, when food is scarce. Birds are flocking to the many succulent berries in the hedgerows, including blackberries and hawthorn berries, as well as the fields upon fields of seeds. Many other animals, including foxes, hedgehogs, mice and squirrels, take advantage of the fresh supply of fruits, nuts and seeds. Winter is around the corner and the animals that are beginning their long hibernation must also build up the stores.



## Harvest Time!



In autumn, the forest floor will be covered in nuts and seeds, where birds and other animals will be foraging.



## All Washed Up!

There were reports of strange-looking creatures on beaches in West Cork this summer. There were confirmed sightings in Barleycove, Sherkin Island, Tragumna and Inchydoney. Do you know what they were? To find out look on page 4.

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