

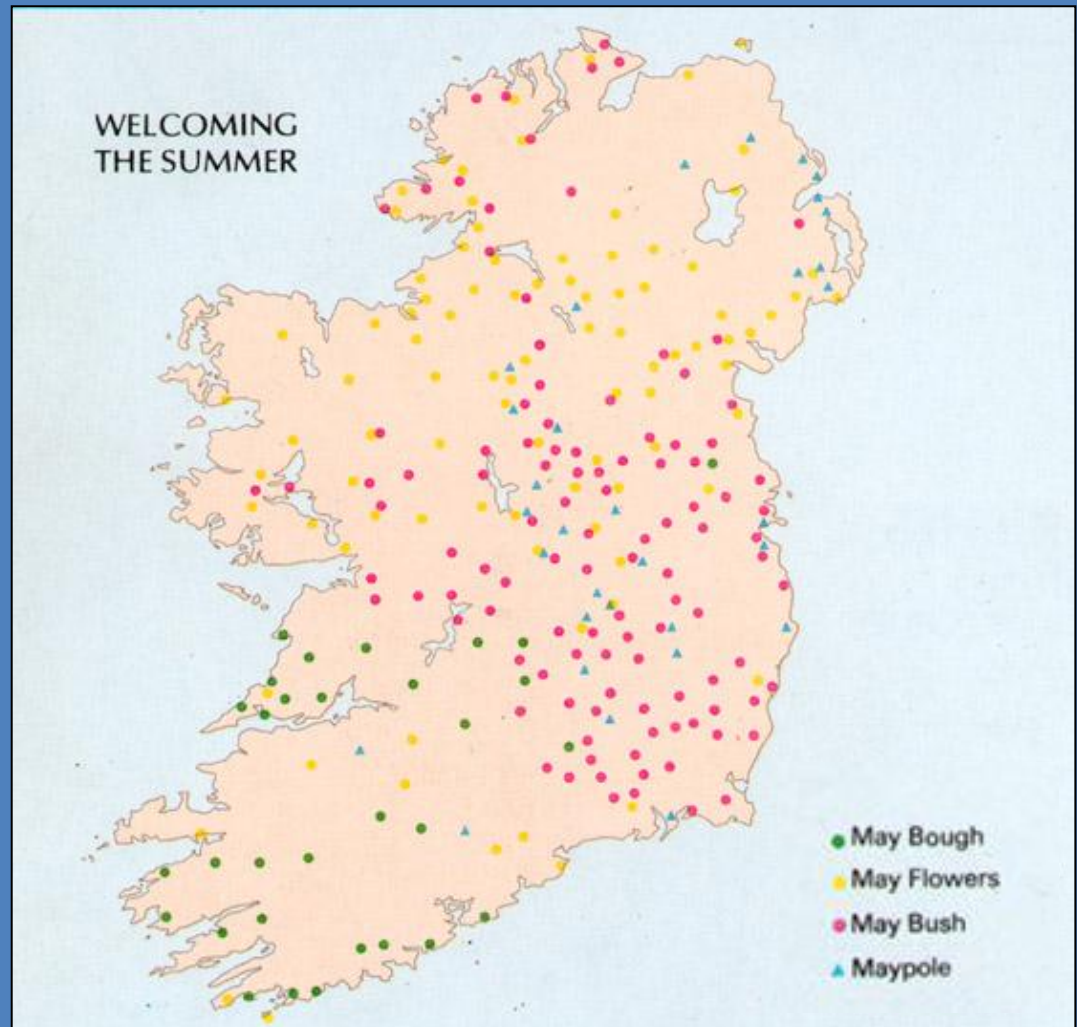
A photograph of two young girls standing in a garden. The girl on the left is wearing a patterned sweater and red pants. The girl on the right is wearing a blue cardigan and blue pants. A red and blue banner is overlaid on the image, containing the text 'May Day'.

May Day



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May Day traditions around the country



May Day, Co. Kildare



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The **May Bush** is most common in **Leinster**, although it is also known in other parts of the country.

It is set up outside the house on **May Eve** and is decorated with **flowers, ribbons, pieces of paper etc.** Whitethorn is the most popular type of bush.

In the **west** of Ireland, it is traditional to *festoon* the doors and windows of the home with **flowers.**



Co. Kildare
(Bróna Nic Amhlaoibh 1980)



Bonfires on evening of May Day, Sligo town
(Bairbre Ní Fhloinn 1995)

The 'May Baby'

Céad de Cheoltaibh Uladh, Énrí Ó Muirgheasa (1915)



Song referring to the practice of dressing up a doll which would be paraded by a boy and girl as part of May Day celebrations.

74. babóg na béaltaine.

I.

Babóg na Béaltaine, mairghean an t-ramhaid,
Suar shac cnoc, ir ríor shac gleann;
Cailíní mairgeada bán-geala gléarta,
Ir tuagamair féin an ramhaid linn.

Samhaid buíde na neoinín glé-geal,
Ir tuagamair féin an ramhaid linn,
Ó baile go baile, ir un ar mbaile na d'iaid rín—
Ir tuagamair féin an ramhaid linn.

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‘Another custom is to get a branch of Rowan tree and *decorate* it with may flowers and **primroses** and leave it in the *middin* [dung heap] standing.

This is to **welcome** the good *fairies* so there will be **good luck** around the year’

[Carrigans, Donegal](#)

[May Customs \(Ballintra\)](#)

[May Day Customs \(Ballycurrane, Waterford\)](#)

[May Day \(Oughterard\)](#)

[Taking the Butter on a May Morning \(Aghanlish\)](#)

[May Day \(Killorglin\)](#)

[May Day Customs and Superstitions \(Rathangan\)](#)

