

Red Deer - Fia Rua

Cervus Elaphus, Linnaeus

Indentification

The Red Deer is our largest wild herbivore. There are three types of deer in Ireland - the Fallow Deer, the Sika Deer and the Red Deer. The Red Deer is the only one native to Ireland. They have a reddish brown coat in summer though it ranges from dark brown to beige, with white spots on either side of the line along the back. The male is called a stag and the female a hind. The Stags shed their antlers each year around April and grow new ones. Young male calves begin to grow their antlers at about six to eight months of age.

Diet

The red deer likes to eat grasses, leaves such as heather, oak, ivy, holly, and fraughans as well as herbs, fruit and woody shoots. The diet of red deer in Killarney National Park consists of 50% - 70% grass, depending on season and location.

Habitat

In Ireland the Red Deer will use conifer plantations, particularly open thickets with good food and cover. They may also migrate down from higher altitudes to more sheltered wooded lowlands in winter. Because of habitat changes and disturbance, they mainly inhabit open upland mountain and moorland and secluded woodland.

Sainiathint

Is é an Fia Rua an luibhiteoir fiáin is mó atá againn. Tá trí chineál fia in Éirinn - an Fia Buí, an Fia Seapánach agus an Fia Rua. Is é an Fia Rua an t-aon cheann amháin acu atá dúchasach in Éirinn. Sa samhradh bíonn dath deargdhonn ar a chóta ach d'fhéadfadh sé go mbeadh idir dhonn dorcha agus bhéasa air chomh maith, le spotaí bána ar dhá thaobh na líne a bhíonn feadh an droma. Tugtar fia bairr ar an bhfia fireann agus tugtar eilit ar an bhfia bainneann. Gach bliain, thart ar mhí Aibreáin, scoitear beanna an fhia bhairr agus fásann beanna nua air. Tosaíonn beanna na laonna eilite fireann ag fás nuair a bhíonn na laonna idir sé mhí agus ocht mí d'aois.

Cothú

Is maith leis an bhfia rua féara agus duilleoga a ithe amhail duilleoga fraoigh, duilleoga darach, duilleoga eadhneáin agus duilleoga cuillinn agus fraocháin freisin, chomh maith le luibheanna, torthaí agus eascairtí adhmaid. Is ionann cothú na bhfianna rua atá i bPáirc Náisiúnta Chill Airne agus idir 50% agus 70% féir, de réir cén seasúr atá ann agus cá háit ina bhfuil siad lonnaithe.

Gnáthóg

In Éirinn, úsáidfidh an Fia Rua fáschoill bhuaircineach mar ghnáthóg, go háirithe caschoill oscailte le bia agus clúdach maith ann. Sa gheimhreadh féadfaidh sé teacht anuas as na tailte arda ar imirce go dtí tailte ísle coillearnaí a bhfuil dídean níos fear iontu. Mar gheall ar athruithe agus ar shuaitheadh a tharlaíonn i ngnáthoga is ar shliobh ardtalaimh agus ar mhóinteach oscailte agus i gcoillearnach chúlraideach is mó a bhíonn cónaí air.

An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta & Fiadhúlra National Parks & Wildlife Service



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