

Gardens

Actions to help pollinators

www.pollinators.ie



Why garden for pollinators?

Garden for pollinators so that you can grow your own fruit and vegetables, have a healthy balanced diet and see flowers and wildlife in your local landscape

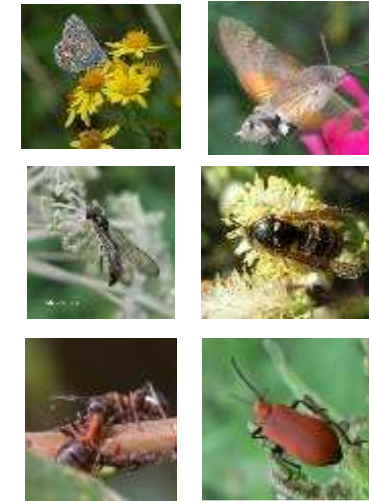


Who are the pollinators in Ireland?

Bees



Other pollinators



Only **1**
Honeybee species



20 + **77** = **97**
Bumblebee species Solitary bee species



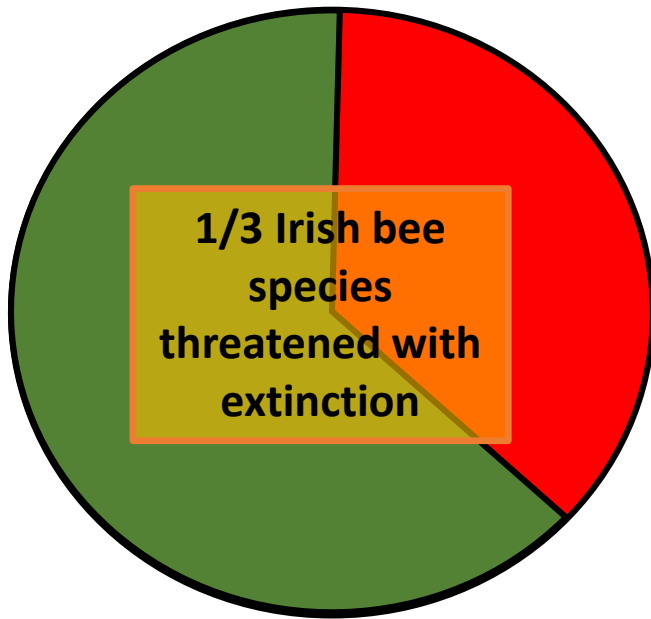
Wild bee
species



* As of 2017 there are now 21
bumblebee species in Ireland

Are pollinators in decline?

One third of our 99 bee species are threatened with extinction from Ireland



More than half of Ireland's bee species have undergone substantial declines in their numbers since 1980.

Two species have become extinct

You can help implement the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan by making sure your garden provides pollinators with:

food, shelter & safety



Food

Shelter

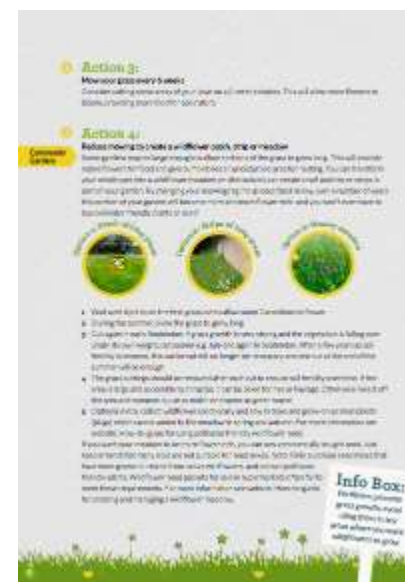
Safety

Guidelines for making your garden pollinator friendly



June 2016

- ✓ 20 pollinator friendly actions for your garden, clearly explained
- ✓ Lots of **options** relevant for gardens of any size, including community gardens
- ✓ Appropriate for anyone who wants to make their outdoor space more pollinator friendly
- ✓ All actions are pragmatic, low/no cost & evidenced based
- ✓ All actions safe for your home



A. Identify and protect existing areas good for pollinators

Food and Shelter

Action 1: Protect existing sources of food and shelter for pollinators

- ✓ Patches of wildflowers or “weedy” plants (food)
- ✓ Flowering hedgerows (food)
- ✓ Bare soil on flat or sloped ground, e.g. lawn edging (shelter)
- ✓ Long grass (shelter)
- ✓ Dry stone walls (shelter)



B. Reduce the frequency of mowing of grassy areas

Food

Action 2: Let the Dandelions Bloom



John Breen



Dara Stanley



Sylvia Hetherington



Joanna Hodgson

Action 3: Mow your grass every six weeks

B. Reduce the frequency of mowing of grassy areas

Action 4: Reduce mowing to create a wildflower patch, strip or meadow

Food



Cherry Townsend



Sallyann Marron

Option 1: wildflower patches



Option 2: wildflower strip



Edward Hill

Option 3: wildflower meadow

C. Pollinator friendly planting

Food

Calmintha



Lavender



Allium



Action 5: Have pollinator friendly plants flowering in your garden from March to October



Geranium



Lupin



Poppy



Berberis



Cotoneaster






How do you know if a plant is pollinator friendly?

- Single instead of double flowered varieties: double flowered varieties but provide almost no nectar and pollen for pollinators
- Perennials over annuals: perennial plants are generally better sources of pollen and nectar
- Do you see pollinators visiting it? When choosing plants to buy at a garden centre, you will quickly realise what flowers pollinators visit most. Also keep an eye out for the Royal Horticultural Society's "Perfect for Pollinators" logo, which is now used by many suppliers of garden plants



Aim to have 3-5 different types of plants flowering in your garden each season

| | Spring (March-May) | Summer (July-Aug) | Autumn (Sept-Oct) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wildflowers that grow naturally in long grass  | -Dandelion -Dead-nettle -Vetch | -Bird's foot trefoil -Brassicas -Clovers -Geranium -Knapweed -Oxeye daisy -Self-heal -Speedwell -Thistle -Vetch -Yarrow | -Autumn Hawkbit -Clover -Hawksbeard -Vetch |
| Ornamental plants & herbs  | -Comfrey -Hellebores -Lungwort -Spring/winter Heather | -Borage -Calamint -Catmint -Columbine -Delphinium -Globe thistle -Lavender -Oregano -Penstemon -Poppy -Scabious -Stachys -Thyme -Vipers' Bugloss | -Aster -Button Snakewort -Coneflower -Eupatorium -Heathers -Stonecrop -Sunflowers |
| Flowering trees/shrubs  | -Berberis -Broom -Crab apple -Forsythia -Hawthorn -Mahonia -Rowan -Viburnum -Wild cherry -Willow | -Bramble -Cotoneaster -Deutzia -Firethorn -Laburnum -Rock Rose -Viburnum | -Ivy -Hebe -Russian Sage |
| Fruit and Veg | -Apples -Blueberries -Cherries -Cherry plum -Currants | -Field beans -Courgettes -Pumpkins -Raspberries -Strawberries -Tomatoes | www.rhs.org.uk/perfectforpollinators |

C. Pollinator friendly planting

Food

Action 6: Pollinator friendly window boxes/hanging baskets/patio pots



Action 7: Plant pollinator friendly bulbs to flower next spring



Action 8: Use green manures that are pollinator friendly



D. Provide wild pollinator nesting habitat

Shelter

Action 9: Create nesting habitat for solitary mining bees

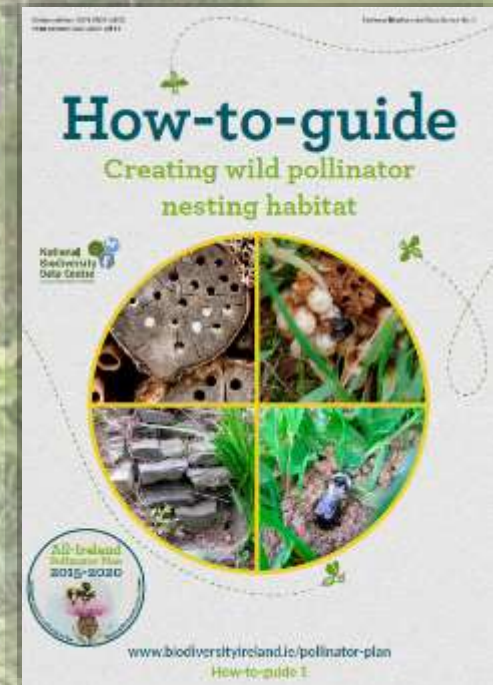
Mining bees- 62 species



Bare ground



Earth bank



D. Provide wild pollinator nesting habitat

Shelter

Action 10: Create nesting habitat for cavity nesting solitary bees

Cavity nesting solitary
bees- 15 species



Bryan Pinchen

Holes in wood



Caitriona McCabe

Bee hotel

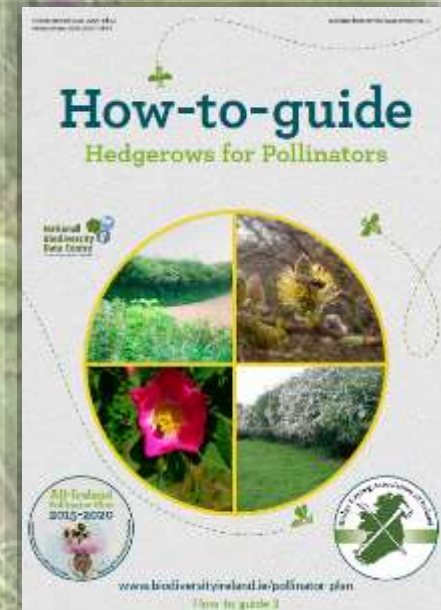
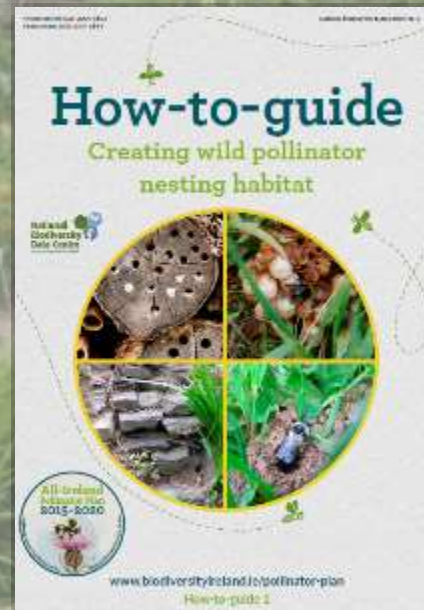


D. Provide wild pollinator nesting habitat

Shelter

Bumblebees: 21 species

Action 11: Hedgerows for pollinators-bumblebee nesting



E. Eliminate Pesticide use

Safety

Action 12: Don't use insecticides on garden flowers and plants



Action 14: Don't use herbicide on the verges outside your house

Action 13: Don't use herbicide on your lawn



Action 15: Ensure best practice where the use of pesticides cannot be avoided

F. Raise awareness of pollinators

Action 16: Junior Version of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

Action 17: share pollinator friendly plants

Five pollinator friendly plants that can be swapped

- 1 **Lavender** Seed or cuttings
- 2 **Salvia** Divide existing plants
- 3 **Thyme** Seed or cuttings
- 4 **Viper's Bugloss** Sow from seeds
- 5 **Willow** Hardwood cuttings



Salvia



Lavender



Action 18: Give the pollinator friendly property management sheet to your estates management company or residents association

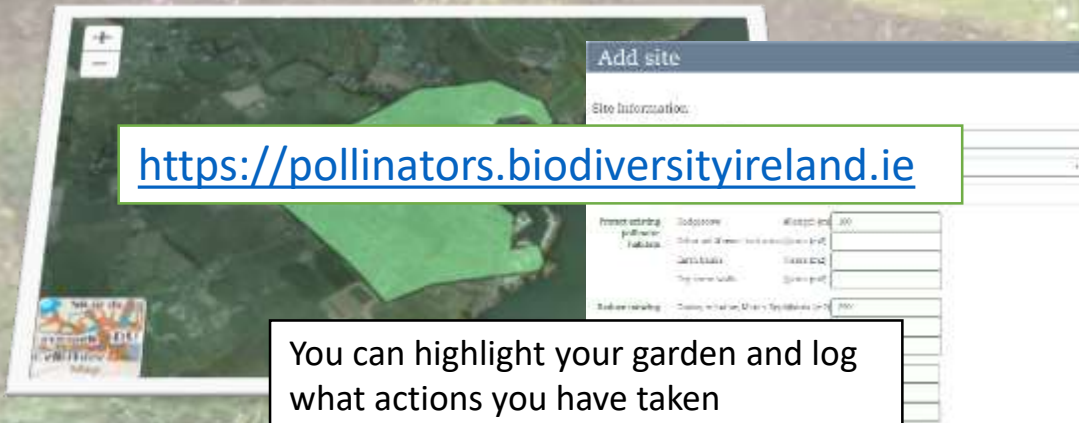
Pollinator friendly guide for estates management

Pollinators are important for our health, wealth and environment. If you have them given the chance, the people living in the properties you manage are concerned about their local pollinators. Show them you care by taking these five simple measures to help pollinators.

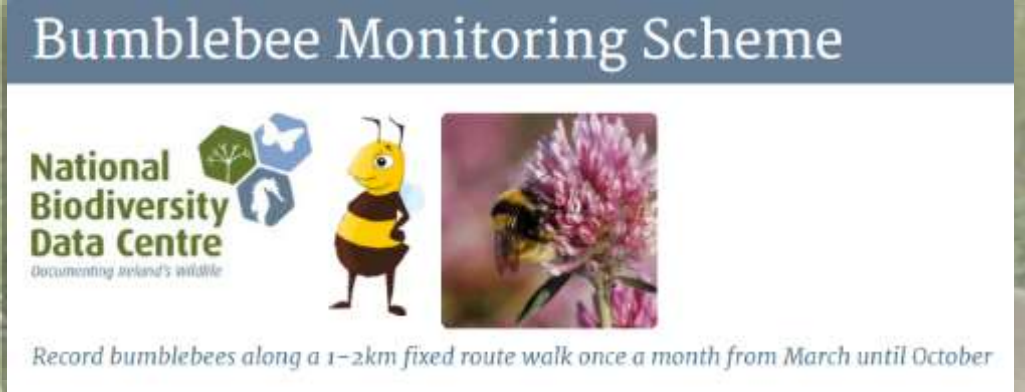
- 1 **Get the Roundhouse Blooms** and put it on display in the front garden. This shows some 'Commitment to flowers' providing bees with much needed food in the spring. The next step is adding or having at least some plants to help up these areas. Don't forget, or let the grass grow to provide pollinators with food.
- 2 **Replace dead garden plants** with native plants and shrubs, especially when you're taking them away. If you're taking them away, replace them with native plants and shrubs, especially when you're taking them away.
- 3 **Create a 'Pollinator friendly' area** in your garden or on your property. This can be a small area or a large area, but it should be a place where pollinators can thrive.
- 4 **If you have any pollinator friendly measures**, log them on the publically available mapping system, 'Where the Pollinators' and ensure you know that your company is doing its part for pollinators when you're working.

F. Tracking Progress and recognition for efforts

Action 19: Add your garden to our publicly available mapping system, 'Actions for Pollinators'



Action 20: Learn to identify pollinators and record what is in your garden



<http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/record-biodiversity/surveys/bumblebee-monitoring-scheme/>

Enter your garden to see if it's **GOLDEN for pollinators:**

- ✓ Must have at least five different pollinator friendly plants flowering during spring, summer and autumn
- ✓ Must contain nesting habitat for cavity nesting AND mining solitary bees
- ✓ Must completely eliminate the use of all pesticides

CALL TO ACTION



www.pollinators.ie

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Thank You