

# Helping Ireland's Bees

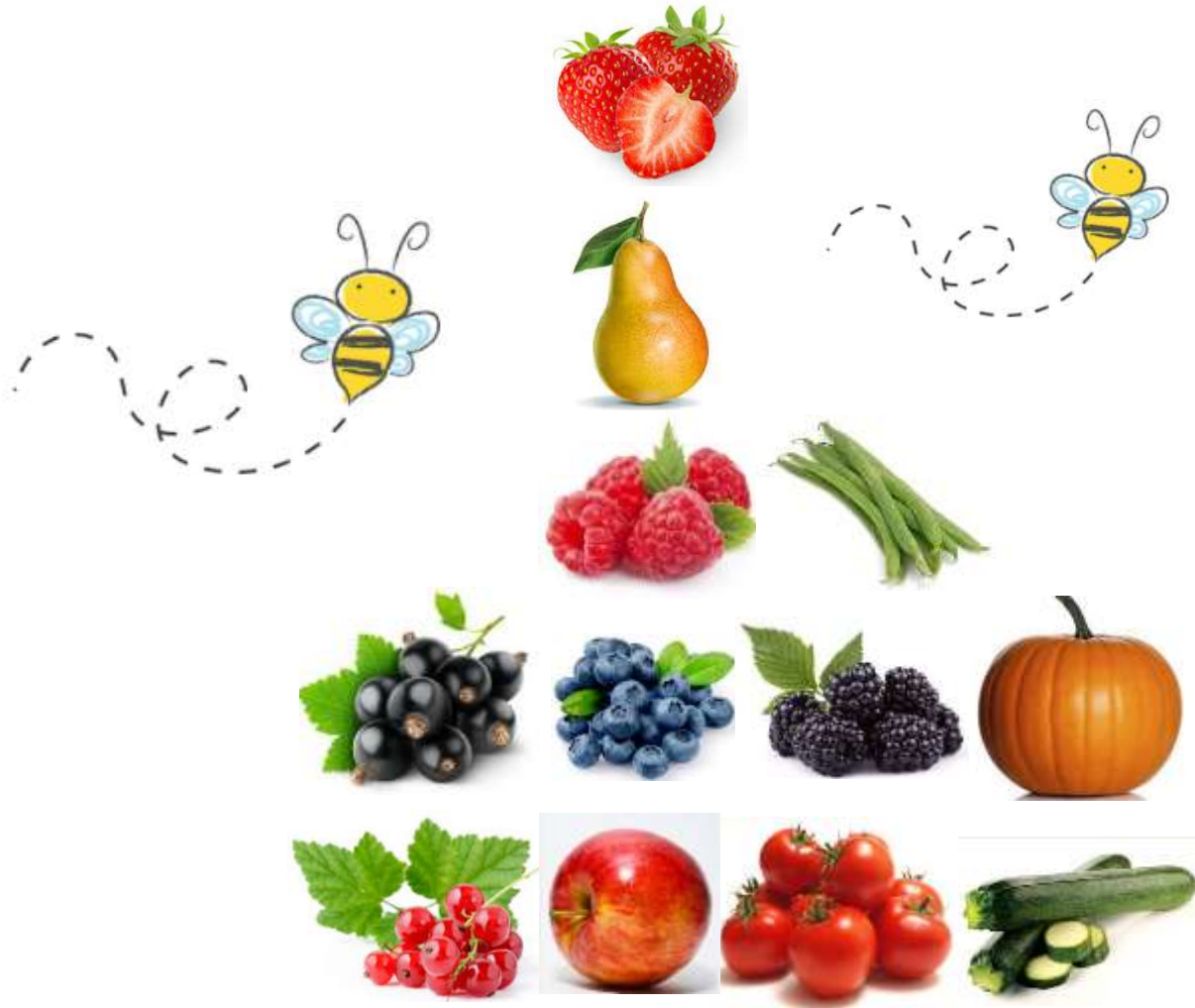


# Why are bees so important?



Bees are five star pollinators! We need them to pollinate our crops, our fruits and vegetables and our wild flowers

# We need bees if we want to grow fruit and vegetables in our garden or school



Jan Feb March April May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec



For a strawberry flower to turn into a strawberry it has to be visited **5** times by a bumblebee



Or visited **15** times by a honeybee

# How many bees are there in Ireland?

Ireland has **99** different types of bees:

Honeybee



Bumblebees



Solitary bees





# BUMBLEBEES – 21 DIFFERENT TYPES IN IRELAND



# Number 21!

Tree Bumblebee – first found in Ireland in September 2017



All our other bumblebees nest on the ground but the Tree Bumblebee nests above ground in tree holes or empty bird boxes



# INTERESTING FACTS

## FAVOURITE COLOURS



## HONEY

Only honeybees make  
honey!

## STINGS



Only girl bees  
can sting!

## COLD

Bumblebees have a dense  
furry coat that helps them  
keep warm



# IT IS VERY HARD TO BE A BUMBLEBEE IN SPRING!



Queen bumblebees have to visit **6,000** flowers every day to get enough energy to brood their eggs



Willow



Dandelion

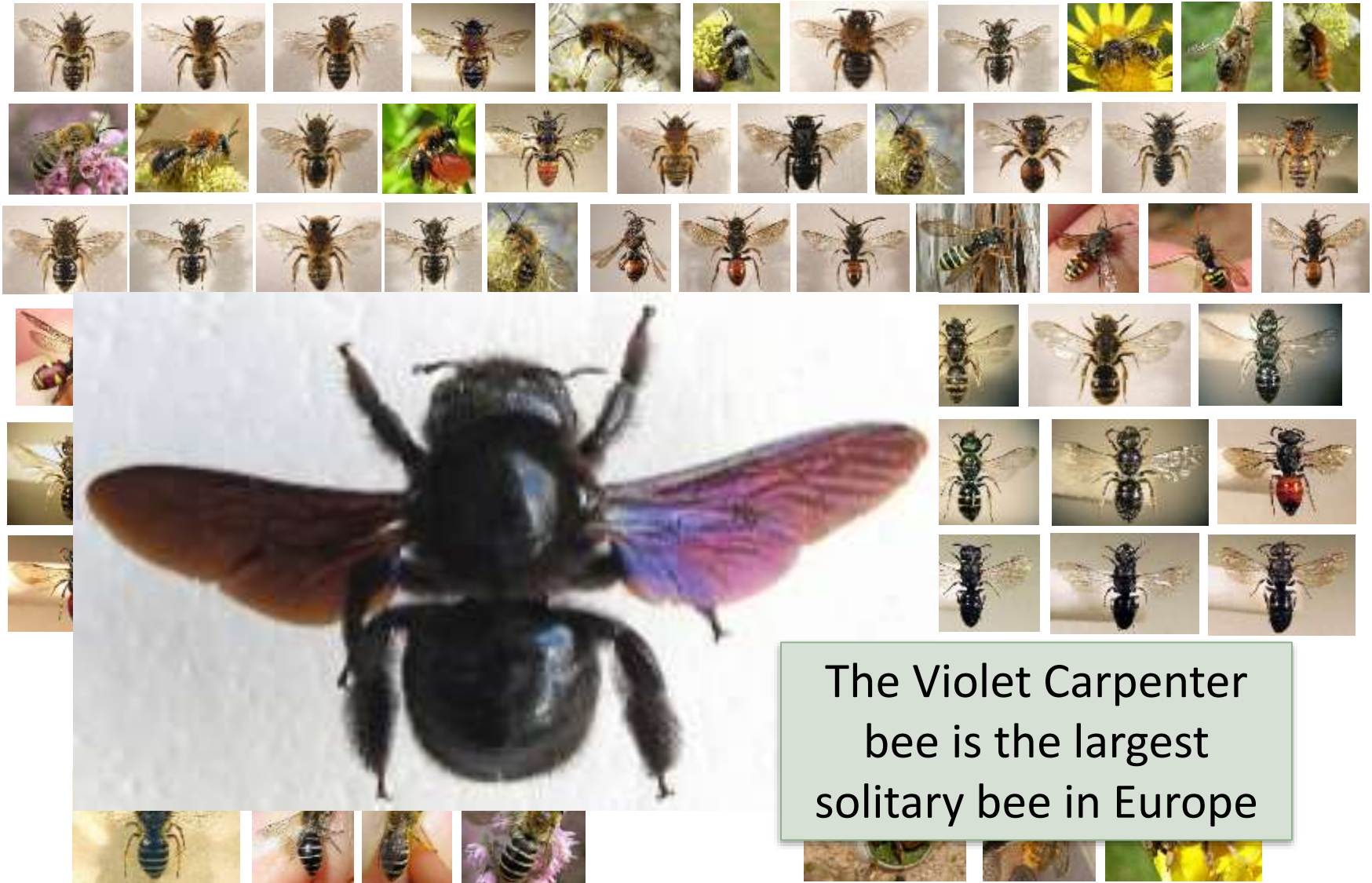


# SOLITARY BEES – 77 DIFFERENT TYPES IN IRELAND





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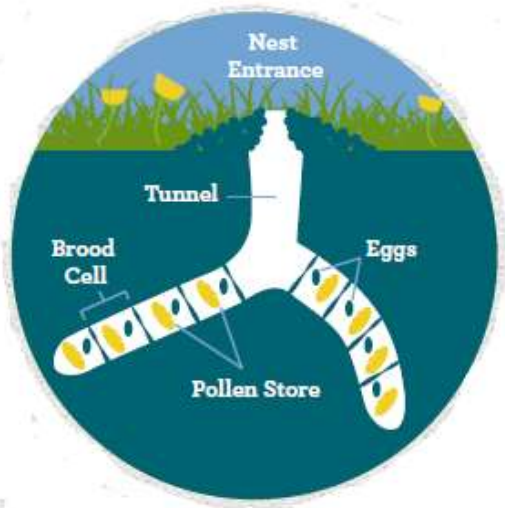
*Osmia aurulenta* makes its nest in empty snail shells at the beach



# SOLITARY BEES – 77 DIFFERENT TYPES IN IRELAND



Most solitary bees nest in bare soil



Some solitary bees nest in holes in wood, walls or bee hotels





# ARE BEES IN TROUBLE?

## YES!

One third of our 99 different types of bees are in so much trouble they might disappear from Ireland for good.

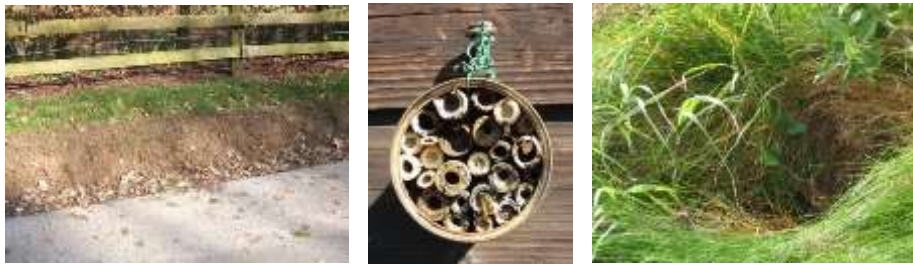


# WHY ARE THEY IN TROUBLE?

## 1. They don't have enough food to eat



## 2. They don't have enough safe places to make their nests



## 3. Sometimes we use chemicals that harm them



# WHAT ARE WE DOING TO HELP BEES?



In 2015 grown-ups came up with a plan to save our bees. Lots of different people have agreed to help.

# VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 website. At the top, there is a header with the National Biodiversity Data Centre logo, a bee on a flower illustration, and the text 'All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020'. Navigation links include 'About', 'Mailing List', 'Contact Us', 'Facebook', and 'Twitter'. A search bar is also present. Below the header is a main navigation menu with links: 'Home', 'Partners', 'Record your actions', 'Record Pollinators', 'Resources', 'News & Events', 'Videos', and 'Media'. The main content area is titled 'Schools' and features a section 'How can Schools help pollinators?'. This section contains two paragraphs of text explaining the importance of pollinators and the need for school and garden support. Below the text, there is a link to download the 'Junior Version of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan' and a link to the 'Junior Pollinator Plan (Irish language version)'. To the left of these links is a small image of the pollinator plan booklet, and to the right is a photo of children in school uniforms looking at a jar.

**National Biodiversity Data Centre**  
*Disseminating Ireland's Wildlife*

**All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020**

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## Schools

### How can Schools help pollinators?

In 2015, bee experts in Ireland came together to produce the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020. We did this because our pollinators, especially our bees, are in big trouble. We need bees in order to grow our fruit and veg, and to make sure our countryside has lots of beautiful wildflowers.

Now we need *your* help to make Ireland a better place for bees and other pollinators. We need you to tell everyone how important bees are. We also need you to make your school and garden a safe place for pollinating insects to live.

To learn how to help, download the Junior Version of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan here: [Junior Pollinator Plan](#)

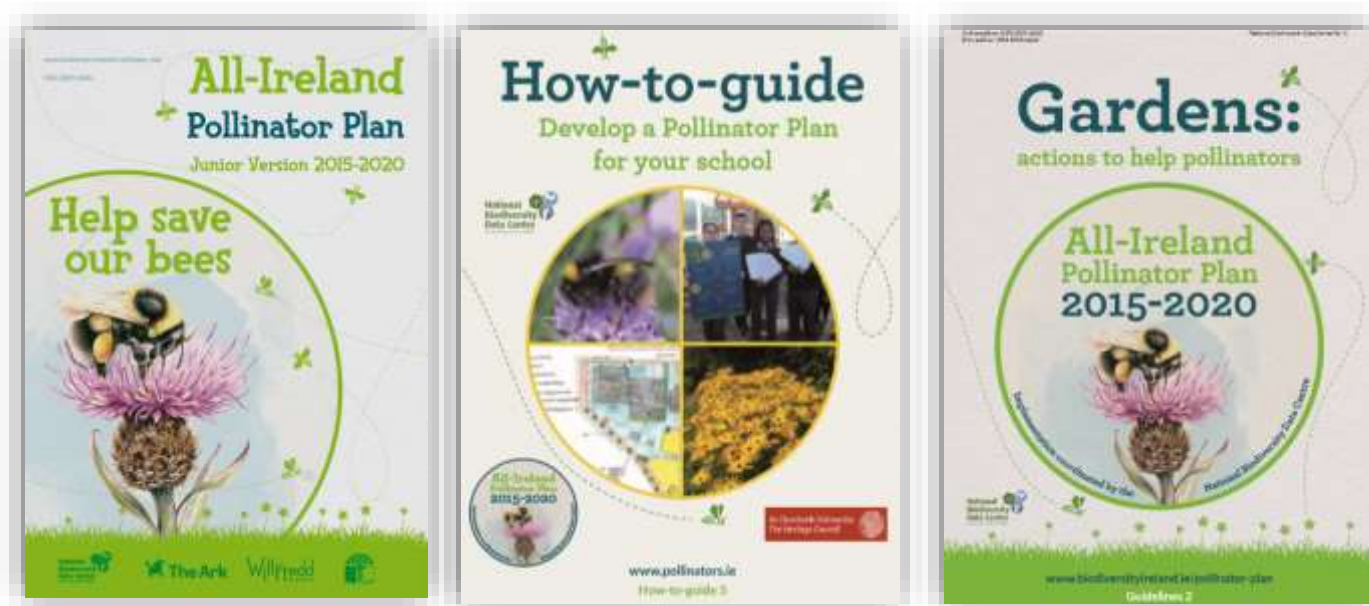
[Junior Pollinator Plan \(Irish language version\)](#)

**Other Pollinator Plan Resources for Schools:**

- Our How-to-guide for schools offers simple steps to help you to create your own Pollinator Plan for your school:

# 5 THINGS YOU CAN DO IN SCHOOL

1.
  - ✓ Read the Junior Pollinator Plan
  - ✓ Read the guide on how to make a plan for your school
  - ✓ Read the Garden guidelines at home



## 2. Don't be scared of bees!





**3.** Provide food for them in spring



**4.** Plant some flowers that they like

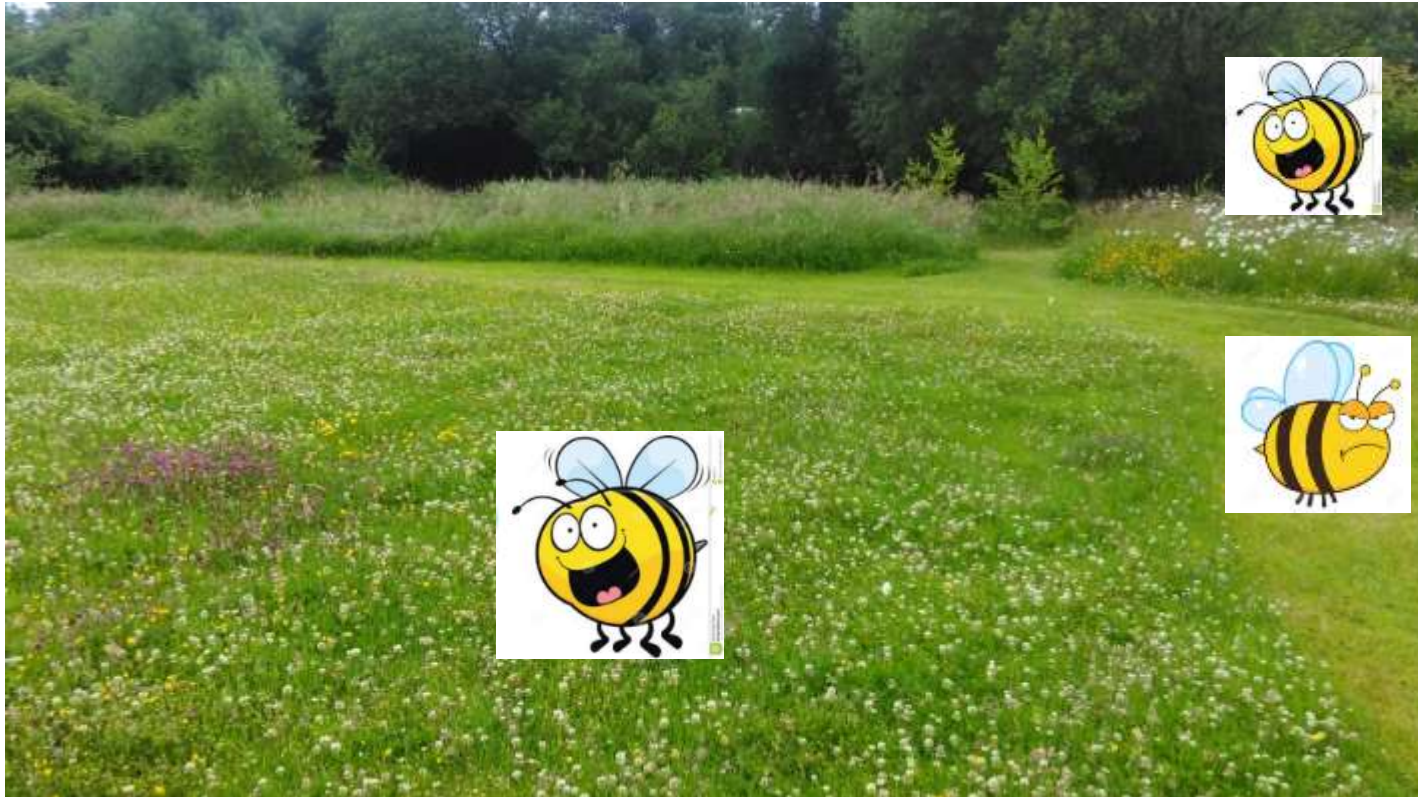


Spring

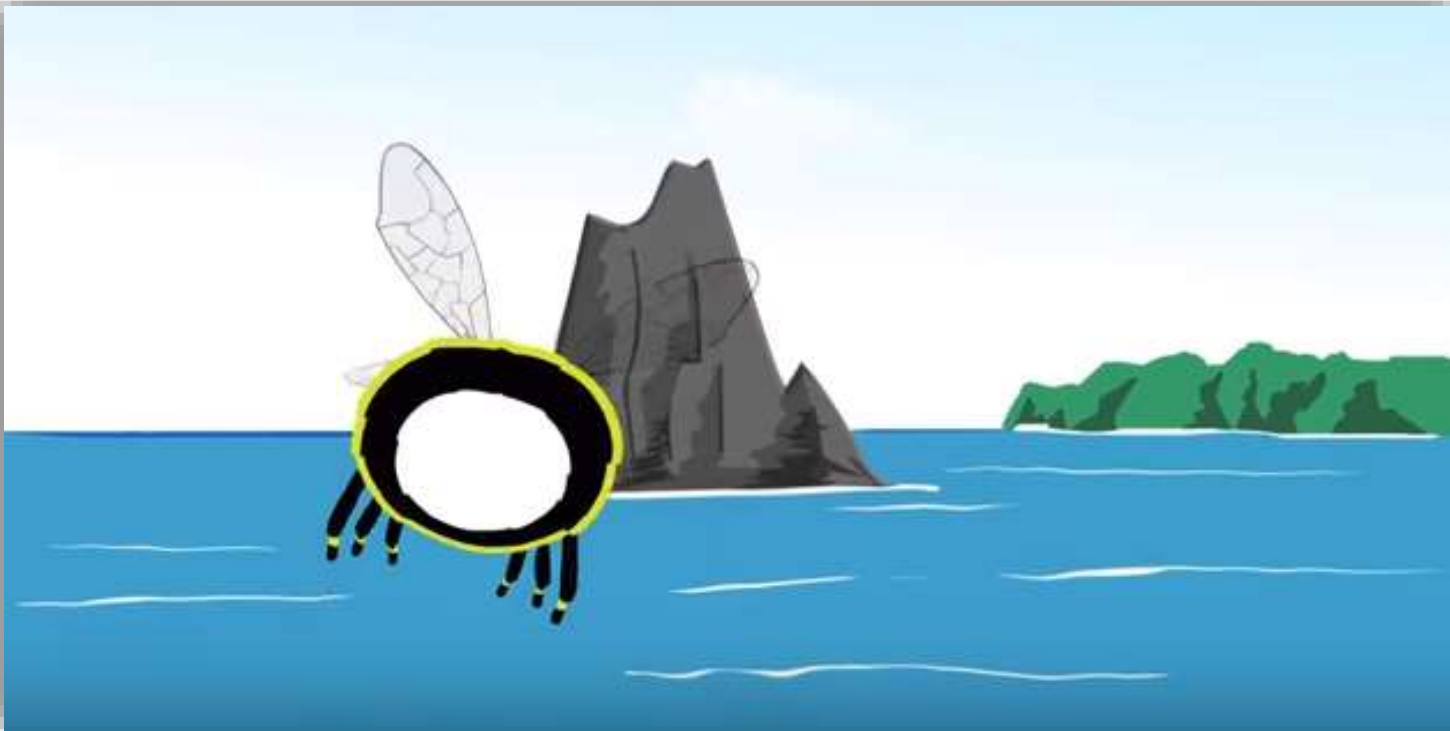


Autumn

# 5. Cut the grass less often

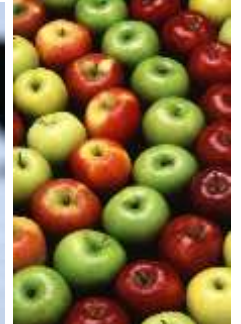


# WATCH THE ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN ANIMATION



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBIKqFywxTY>

# WE CAN ALL HELP BEES!



**Thank You**