Helping Ireland’s Bees
Why are bees so important?

Bees are five star pollinators! We need them to pollinator 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.
For a strawberry flower to turn into a strawberry is 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:

- **1** Honeybee
- **21** Bumblebees
- **77** Solitary bees
BUMBLEBEES – 21 DIFFERENT TYPES IN IRELAND

Images © Steven Falk, with thanks for use
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
FAVOURITE COLOURS

STINGS

HONEY

COLD

Only girl bees can sting!

Only honeybees make honey!

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.
SOLITARY BEES – 77 DIFFERENT TYPES IN IRELAND

Images © Steven Falk, with thanks for use
The Violet Carpenter bee is the largest solitary bee in Europe.
SOLITARY BEES – 77 DIFFERENT TYPES IN IRELAND

Osmia aurulenta makes its nest in empty snail shells at the beach
One Red mason bee can do the pollination work of 150 honeybees!
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
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

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

www.pollinators.ie
2. Don’t be scared of bees!
3. Provide food for them in spring

4. Plant some flowers that they like
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