

How councils can help pollinators

Local Authority staff, Councillors, Planners, Engineers, Landscape Architects, Sustainability, Parks and Gardens staff are invited to this webinar on how public land can be managed to better support pollinating insects.

**Wednesday 23rd June
10.00-13.00**

For details and registration, see:
<https://pollinators.ie/councils/councils-webinar-2021/>

Hosted by Carlow County Council

 **CARLOW**
COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHEATHARLACH

 **SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



Online edition: ISSN 2009-6852
Print edition: ISSN 2009-6844

National Biodiversity Data Series No. 12

Councils:

actions to help pollinators

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

www.pollinators.ie

Implementation coordinated by the

National Biodiversity Data Centre



National Biodiversity Data Centre

www.pollinators.ie
Guidelines 4



KEY Actions to provide
food, shelter & safety for
pollinators

www.pollinators.ie/councils

Juanita Browne

Community & Engagement Project Officer
All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

Three Key Actions

Key action spring: flowering native hedgerows and trees



A

Protect what you have

The easiest and most important thing you can do is identify and protect existing areas that are already good for pollinators

Key action spring-summer: Reduce grass-cutting



B

Alter the frequency of mowing

Changing the frequency of mowing allows wildflowers (food) to flower among the longer grass. This is the most cost-effective way to provide food for pollinators

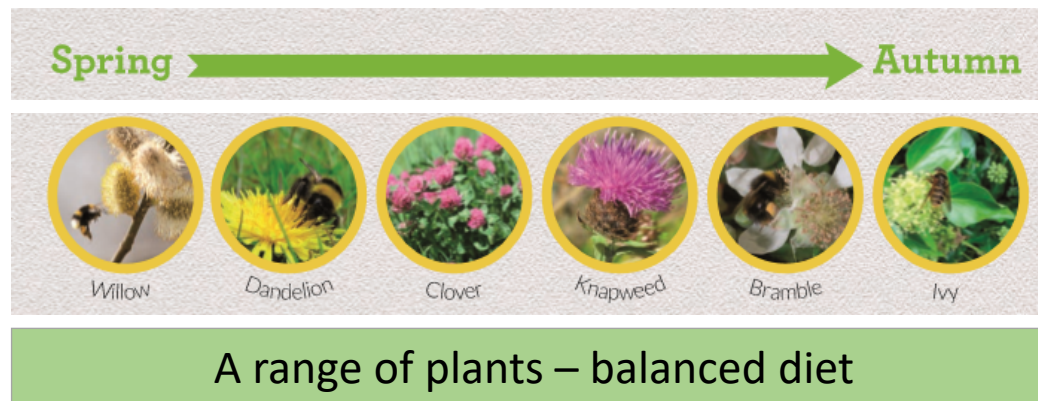
Key action spring-autumn: Choose pollinator-friendly plants



C

Pollinator friendly planting

Take the actions below to ensure you have flowers blooming that can provide food for pollinators from March-October



Allowing native hedgerows to bloom



Whitethorn/
Hawthorn



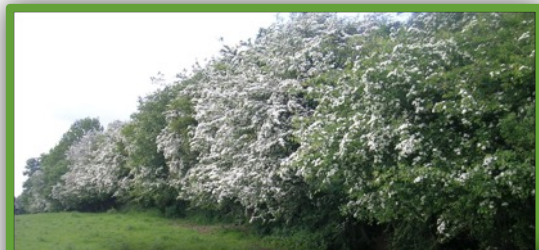
Blackthorn



Bramble



Current management of hedgerows is often not pollinator friendly. If hedgerows are *not* in flower April-May, they are *not* good for pollinators and other wildlife.



A

Protect what you have

The easiest and most important thing you can do is identify and protect existing areas that are already good for pollinators

Hedgerow management to encourage flowering:

- A pollinator-friendly hedgerow should be flowering, at least 2.5m in height, and should be trimmed in an A-shape.
- Where hedgerows must be cut for safety, allow the inside to flower.
- Let some hedgerows grow wild, side-trimming only.
- Where possible, cut hedgerows on a minimum 3-year cycle. Cutting annually stops the hedgerow flowering and fruiting.
- Where possible, cut in rotation rather than all at once - this will ensure some areas of hedgerow will always flower (Blackthorn is white in March. Whitethorn flowers in May).
- Hedges managed for pollinators should ideally be cut between November-January. If they must be cut outside this, cut sections in rotation, so some areas remain undisturbed.
- Let some Bramble and Ivy grow in hedgerows, as key nectar and pollen sources in summer and autumn.



Native flowering hedgerow plants that are good for pollinators:

Blackthorn (Mar-May)



Wild Cherry (Apr-May)



Elder (May-Jun)



Spindle (May-Jun)



Wild roses (Jun-Aug)



Willow (Mar-May)



Whitethorn/Hawthorn (Apr-Jun)



Crab apple (May-Jun)



Rowan (May-Jun)



Bramble/Blackberry (May-Sept)



Ivy (Sept-Nov)



Spring

Autumn

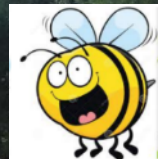




Alter the frequency of mowing

Don't Mow Let it Grow - not cutting grass so often is the best and cheapest way to provide more food for pollinators

Cut once a year – food and shelter



Cut regularly



Cut less frequently - food

You must take the cuttings away – this gradually lowers soil fertility and gives wildflowers in the soil a chance to grow

B

Alter the frequency
of mowing

Short-flowering meadow



Action 3: At least 10 locations mown under a pollinator friendly regime (~5 cut & lifts per year)

June 2021 Costings - Community Pollinator Areas in Shannon. *Courtesy of Clare County Council*

| | | Cost per hectare per cut | Total annual cost to Council | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------|
| Regular mowing | Cut (2-week intervals) | €79.66 | Cutting 16 times per annum | €1,276.32 |
| Reduced mowing (pollinator-friendly short-flowering meadow) | Cut & lift (6-week intervals) | €210 | Cut & lift 5 times per annum | €1,050 |

Long-flowering meadow



Action 4:

At least 5 meadows
(one cut and lift per year)

Long-flowering verges



Action 5:

10 flagship roadside verges that
are managed to be pollinator
friendly (one cut and lift per year)

Layered verges



Action 6:

Introduce a *layered*
mowing approach to
other roadside verges

Natural Irish meadows will never look like this – but this is not a natural habitat and is not better for pollinators



Long-flowering meadow management - **cut once in September and remove the grass** – it will gradually become more flower-rich on its own



Year 1-2



Year 4



Don't Mow Let it Grow



- ✓ Dandelion
- ✓ Daisy
- ✓ Buttercup
- ✓ White Clover



- ✓ Red Clover
- ✓ Cuckoo flower
- ✓ Bird's-foot-trefoil



- ✓ Speedwell
- ✓ Selfheal
- ✓ Vetches
- ✓ Knapweed

Don't Mow Let it Grow



Canal, Inchicore





Tymon Park, SDCC



Causeway Hospital, Coleraine © Donna Rainey



Kilbarry Nature Park, Waterford Co Council



Applegreen, Kinegad

© Codie Cory

© Codie Corey

Scotshouse Park, Monaghan



Signage





Very gaudy annuals like Geranium, Begonia, Busy Lizzy, Primula, Daffodil, Salvia splendens don't provide food



Pollinator friendly planting



Consider mixing in Bidens or Bacopa that do provide food

Add in pollinator-friendly bulbs



Pollinator friendly planting



<https://pollinators.ie/councils/pollinator-friendly-planting-schemes/>



Pollinator-friendly Herbs



Pollinator-friendly Garden plants

Thanks to Peter Cuthbert for all his help on planting advice



Pollinator friendly
planting

Perennials are not only better for pollinators
but are also more *sustainable*!



Info box: Pollinator friendly perennial planting versus annual bedding

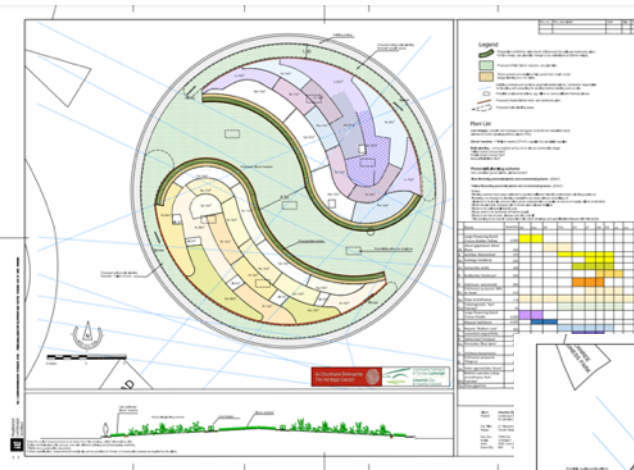
| Planting regime | Approximate costs per m ² (2016) | Typical replacement |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pollinator friendly perennials | €10-13 (9 x 9cm pots) | Life span of 10-12 years if well planted and well maintained. Small amount of annual replacement may be required depending on the site |
| | €17-19 (6 x 2L pots) | |
| Annual bedding | €10-29 | Twice per year |

Based on prices from a large Irish perennial plant nursery. Typical annual bedding costs were provided by a Council in ROI. |



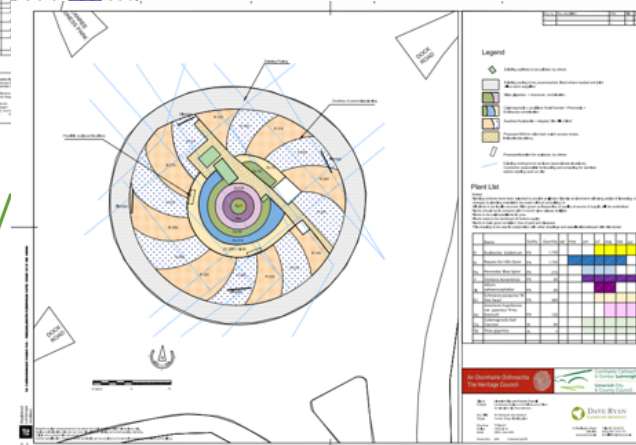
Pollinator friendly
planting

Action 14: Some roundabouts planted in a pollinator friendly way with bulbs or pollinator-friendly perennials




Limerick
CITY & COUNTY
COUNCIL

<https://pollinators.ie/councils/pollinator-friendly-planting-schemes/>





Pollinator friendly planting

Pollinator-friendly trees / Community mini-Orchards

Native Biodiversity-friendly Trees



All native tree planting is a climate action, and will benefit biodiversity, as well as human health and wellbeing.

Those trees that are specifically good for pollinators are highlighted with the bee icon.

Hawthorn/ Whitethorn



to enjoy. Hawthorn supports c.149 insect species.

Oak



when fully grown - growing up to 40m in height - perhaps there is room in a club with large grounds for such an important tree.

Blackthorn



Blackthorn provides a home for 109 insect species. Related to cherries and plums, the fruit of the blackthorn resemble small plums and are enjoyed by lots of animals, including wood mice, finches and foxes.

Willow



grown easily from cuttings.

Ash



Ash is a common native Irish tree, which supports 41 native insects and 255 lichens. The wood from ash trees has been used to make hurleys for thousands of years.

Birch



Birch can be recognised by its silver-white peeling bark. Birch supports 229 insect species and 126 lichens. In spring, its growth of seed-rich yellow-brown catkins attracts birds.

Wild Cherry



Wild Cherry is a pretty native tree that will provide food for pollinators as well as fruit for birds.

Rowan



Rowan is also known as 'Mountain Ash' as it has similar leaves to the ash tree. Rowan supports 28 insects and 125 lichens. It is a very attractive tree, with white flower clusters in spring for pollinators, and red berries in autumn.

Hazel



Hazel is a small native tree or shrub that produces edible hazelnuts in autumn for mammals and birds. Hazel also supports 73 insect species and 160 lichens.

Crab Apple



Crab Apple can be found in many of our old native hedgerows. It supports 93 insect species, including pollinators, and crab apples provide food for birds and mammals in autumn.

*Insect & lichen diversity based on UK Research and refers to Britain. It is included here to demonstrate how important different native trees are to biodiversity. Ref: Southwood, T.R.E. (1960) The number of species of insect associated with various trees. *J. Animal Ecology* 30:1-6. Rose, F. and Harding, P.T. (2016) Pasture and woodlands in Lowland Britain and their importance for the conservation of the saprophytic and invertebrates associated with old trees. Nature Conservation Council & The Institute of Terrestrial Ecology.



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

National
Biodiversity
Data Centre
A Heritage Council Programme



**Antrim & Newtownabbey
Borough Council: Six Mile Water
Park, traditional orchard creation**
Traditional orchard created on an amenity grassland area
5 different fruit tree species, 25 trees in total
Native hedgerow planted around the orchard
Provides food and shelter for pollinators





Be careful of:



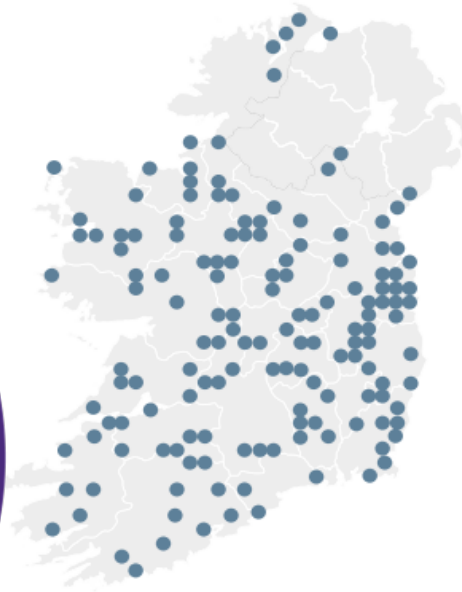
Only get honeybee hives if you want to start a new hobby, it is **not a biodiversity action**



The AIPP does not endorse seed bombs. We always recommend **natural regeneration** over any kind of wildflower seed planting



With bee hotels, big is not better! They are more likely to attract predators and to harbor disease



Over 160 pollinator-friendly towns and villages, from every county have entered the Local Authority Pollinator Award.



Heritage Officer Programme



We thank the Heritage, Biodiversity Officers and Environmental Awareness officers in Councils across the island for their tireless support over the last five years. They have been instrumental in the success of the Plan through raising awareness and supporting action at the Local Authority and community level.

Using pollinator-friendly planting to create feeding stops on pollinator corridor





Green Flag for Parks Pollinator Award



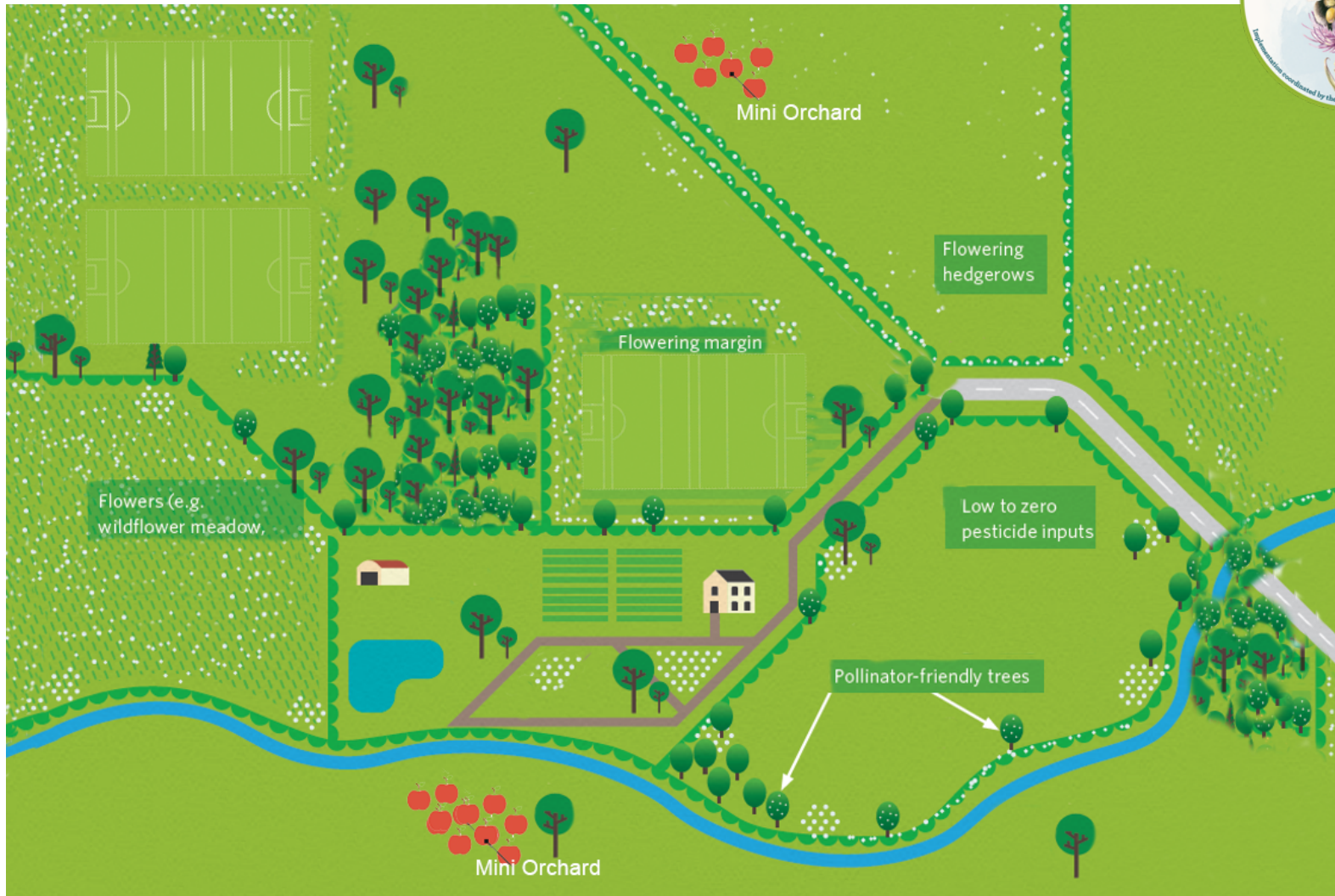
2017-2020:
48 entries from 23 parks

Four categories:

- Town Park
- Country Park/Demesne
- Community Award
- Walled Garden



Creating a Pollinator-friendly Park



Partnership Framework for Councils/Local Authorities



Launched in February 2019 to better support and promote the work being undertaken by local authorities.

In becoming an All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Partner, your Council/Local Authority agrees:

- That your Council/Local Authority **supports the ethos** of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and will consider the Plan in their policies, plans, and management decisions where possible.
- To consider the evidence-based actions in the guideline document *Councils: Actions to help Pollinators*, and **to carry out one pollinator-friendly action in the first year of signing up and plan to carry out at least three more within the following five years**. The guideline document lists 30 possible actions, many of which are low cost or cost-neutral.
- To **update** the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Team (within the National Biodiversity Data Centre) on the positive pollinator actions you have planned, implemented or maintained at the end of each year, when contacted, to help us promote your work.





Derry City & Strabane District Council
Comhairle Chathair Dhoire & Cheantar an tSrátha Báin



Ards and North Down Borough Council



Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council



Fermanagh & Omagh District Council
Comhairle Ceantair Fhear Manach agus na hÓmal



Comhairle Contae Dhoire na nGall
Donegal County Council



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council



Comhairle Chontae Liatroma
Leitrim County Council



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



Comhairle Contae Ros Comaoin
Roscommon County Council



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Limerick
Limerick City & County Council



Comhairle Contae Chiarraí
Kerry County Council



Mid & East Antrim Borough Council



Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE AN DÚBHAIR



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council



Fingal County Council
Comhairle Contae Fionn Gall



Dublin City Council
Comhairle Cathrach Wharfe Áine Cluich



Comhairle Contae Aithne
South Dublin County Council



Wicklow County Council
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin



Laois County Council
Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
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CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
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Wexford County Council



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

33 local authorities current partners



Thank You

www.pollinators.ie

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Sincere thanks to Carlow County Council

