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NEWSLETTER FOR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS: APRIL 2021

Dear all,

Welcome to the following companies who have recently agreed to become a business supporter of the AIPP:

Keppel Data Centres, Convergent Technologies, Irish Tree Centre, Schneider Electric, Tralee Bay Wetlands Eco & Activity Park, Glenveagh Homes, Maldron Hotel Sandy Road, LPI Group, Ardmac, Tate, Muff Honey, White's Speedicook Ltd, Annalitten Foods Ltd, Clayton Hotel, Burlington Road, Suir Engineering Ltd, Anord Mardix, MSD Ballydine, NTR, Mercury.

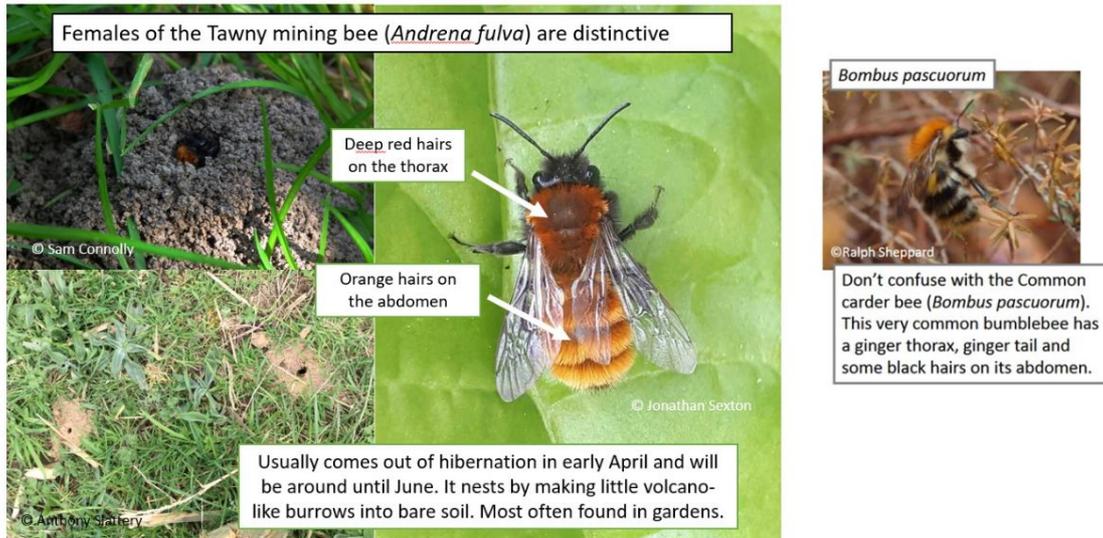
Thanks to all of you for your support.

Dr Úna FitzPatrick

1. To spot this month: Keep an eye out for the rare Tawny mining bee

This is one of our most distinctive solitary bees – look out for deep red hairs on the thorax and orange hairs on the abdomen. It usually comes out of hibernation in April and will be around until June. It nests by making little volcano-like burrows into bare soil and is most often found in gardens.

The Tawny Mining bee was thought to be extinct for 87 years in Ireland, before being rediscovered in 2012. Since then, it has been recorded from the North Wicklow coast and from some additional locations in Co. Kilkenny. In 2019, it was recorded for the first time in counties Dublin and Kildare. In 2020, it was recorded for the first time in Down, Tipperary and Waterford. Already this year we've had a confirmed sighting in Co. Carlow. Can you help find more new populations?

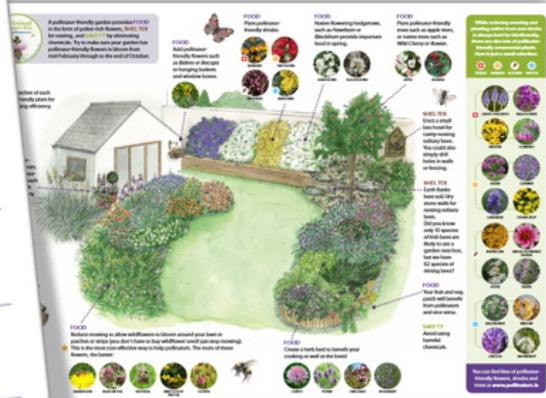


2. To do this month: Pledge your garden for pollinators!

'Pledging your garden for pollinators' means you have chosen to make it a healthy pitstop for pollinators in the landscape. By taking some simple actions, you will help to provide much-needed food and shelter for our pollinating insects, while creating a beautiful, colourful garden. Many thanks to the Local Authority Heritage and Biodiversity Officer Network, who funded this new 4-page guide on making your garden pollinator friendly. Pledge your own garden, or encourage your employees to do so. If you wish to make hard copies of this guide available, we store our artwork with a print company in Waterford: <http://www.tagline.ie/>

Download our new 4-page guide: https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Pledge-your-Garden-for-Pollinators_WEB.pdf

Pledge your garden: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6NLCWS6>



3. Carry out a 10-minute Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count)

Help us track changes in pollinators by carrying out a FIT Count. Watch a 50x50cm patch of flowers for 10 minutes and record how many insects visit. You don't have to identify the insects to species, just to broad groups (e.g., bumblebee, wasp, fly etc.). We have lots of resources online to help you, including a short video. You can submit as many FIT Counts as you like between now and the end of September. FIT Counts can be carried out anywhere - business site, garden, farm, park. You do need to wait until it's sunny and at least 13C though!

<https://pollinators.ie/record-pollinators/fit-count/>



4. Blogs

Don't forget we have an active blog series. Read our two most recent on why it is better to reduce mowing and allow natural meadow regeneration than plant wildflower seed.

Planting wildflower seed is a horticultural action. Not planting seed and allowing natural regeneration of grassy areas is an incredibly important biodiversity action that will help reintroduce natural meadows and verges to our landscape. This habitat has been decimated in recent decades to the detriment of all our biodiversity. But slowly, one site at a time and however small, we can bring them back!

<https://pollinators.ie/blog/>

Blog



Spreading seeds of doubt – fake 'wildflower' mixes

📅 12th April 2021

Botanist Dr Noeleen Smyth explains why the word 'wild' should be removed from those ubiquitous wildflower seed packets popping up in every store. Spring fever has gripped, I have just moved house, and am full of enthusiasm for my ...

[Continued](#)



Why I don't plant wildflower seed

📅 8th April 2021

I am often asked, "should I plant wildflower seed?" My answer is always that pollinators themselves would say "no". Would I sow wildflower seed in my own garden? I might put some in a patio pot, but there is absolutely ...

[Continued](#)

5. Pollinator research in Ireland

A huge amount of pollinator research happens in our universities and in 2017 the Irish Pollinator Research Network was established. Their work underpins the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. The network meets annually to ensure collaboration, cohesion and that the evidence-base for policy and action is improved. Click on the link to see what current pollinator research is being carried out in Ireland:

<https://pollinators.ie/research>



6. Welcome to our new Pollinator Plan Farmland Officer

Within the National Biodiversity Data Centre, we are delighted that Ruth Wilson has joined us to help deliver the farmland actions in the AIPP 2021-2025. Thanks to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) for funding this position.

<https://pollinators.ie/about/aipp-team>

We hope that we will have additional support on the business side over the coming months.



