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NEWSLETTER FOR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS: NOVEMBER 2020

Dear all,

Welcome to the following companies who have agreed to become a business supporter of the AIPP in October: Wexford Tomatoes Ltd., Breedon Brick Limited (trades as Kingscourt Brick), Breedon Cement Ireland Limited & Flowers by Ballycreen. Thanks to all of you for your support.

Dr Úna FitzPatrick

1. To do this month: Plant some pollinator-friendly bulbs

Crocus (pictured), Grape hyacinth and Allium are all great options! Now is the time to get your bulbs planted and pollinators will thank you next spring-summer.



2. To spot this month: Can you be the first to spot the Ivy bee in Ireland?

This is still the one to spot this month! The Ivy Bee has never been recorded in Ireland, but it is now common in Britain and seems likely to arrive on our shores very soon. It's a solitary bee with an autumn flight period, to match the flowering of its favourite plant - Ivy. In Britain it can be found from early September until early November. It nests in south facing banks of light soil, you might even be lucky enough to have it set up home in your garden!

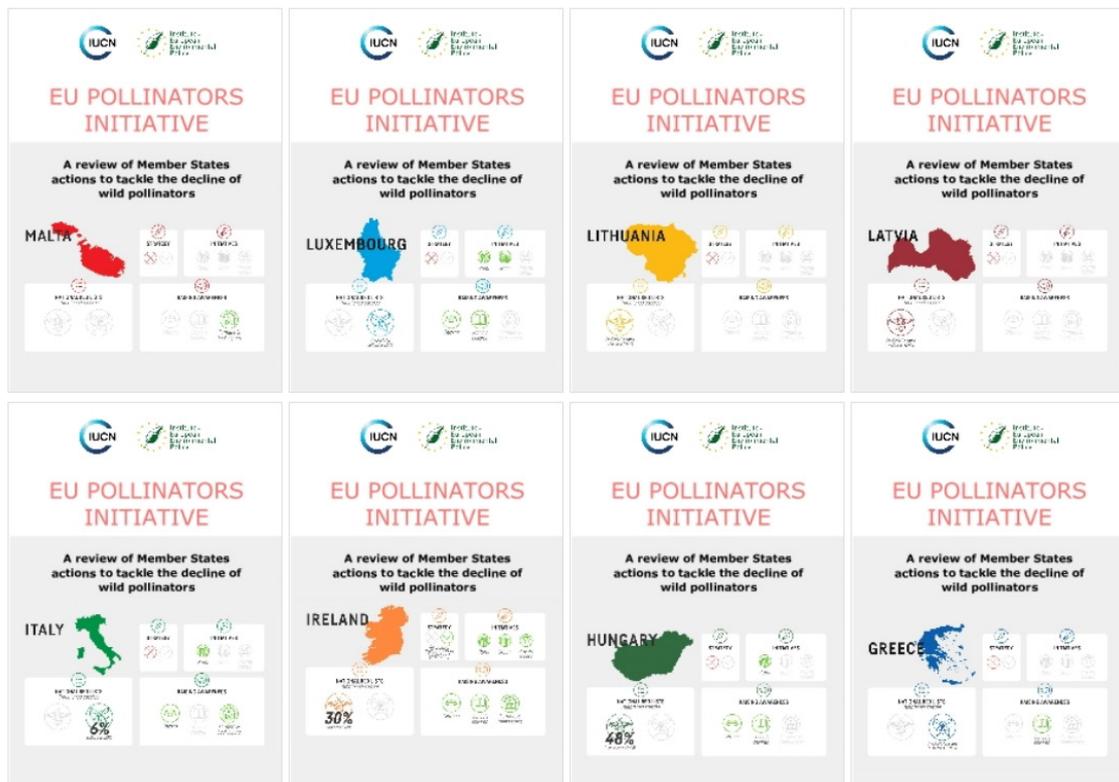
It should be fairly easy to recognise – it's quite large and has very distinctive bands of white on the abdomen. To make it a little easier, most of our solitary bees have completed their life cycles for this year, but there will still be hoverflies and honeybees on the wing. If you think you've spotted this bee please try to take a photograph and email it to me for validation.

<http://pollinators.ie/record-pollinators/watch-for-new-arrivals>



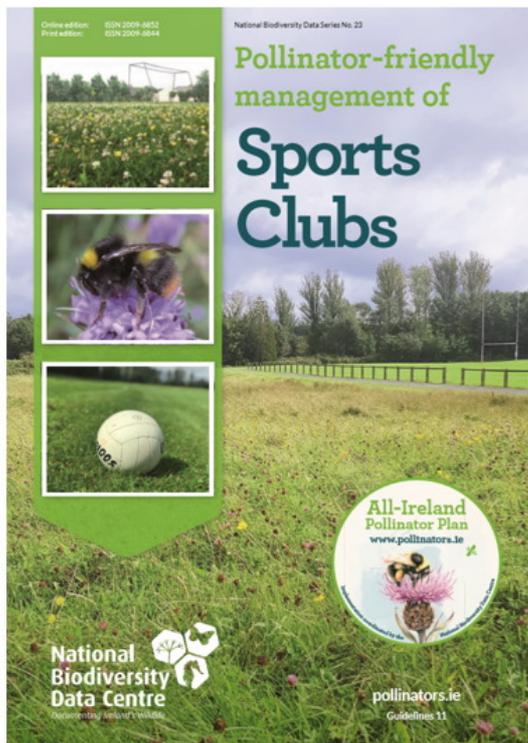
3. All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is leading the way in Europe

In 2020, the Institute for European Environmental Policy compiled a report for the EU Commission on Member States' initiatives to support wild pollinator populations. You can see reports for each country by clicking on the link below. The 2018 EU Pollinator Initiative aims to encourage all Member States to develop national pollinator plans. To assist, they have developed a 'Member State Pollinator Strategy Template' which has been based on the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. <https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/EUPKH/Actions+in+my+country>.



4. New guideline document will be published very shortly

The next in our series of evidence-based guideline documents outlines how Sports Clubs can become more pollinator/biodiversity friendly. It will be released on the website very shortly.



5. All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025

A new draft of the AIPP for 2021-2025 has been agreed by the Steering Group and will now be discussed with key partners. It is an ambitious draft, and we hope can build on the success of the first five years. We will keep you informed of progress as it develops over the remainder of the year. The business supporter framework will continue seamlessly into the next phase.



6. Business supporter annual review – short updates due by the 13th November

Each year in late November we publish an annual review outlining the actions taken by our business supporter network (link to 2019 review below). Thanks to those of you who have already submitted your update for 2020. These very short updates (max 200 words) are a really important way that we can show the huge impact that the business sector can have in helping tackle biodiversity loss. They are also an excellent way to exchange knowledge. Given the very difficult situation this year with Covid-19, we have no expectation that you have all been able to continue with your pollinator actions. If that is the case, there is no problem whatsoever and just let me know so that I can ensure the text reflects that. Also, don't worry if you have recently joined, we don't expect you to contribute this year. Photo: Blarney Castle Estate & Gardens ©Adam Whitbourn

<https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/AIPP-Business-Supporters-Annual-Review-2019.pdf>



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