

Bumblebee lifecycle



Once mated the new Queen feeds heavily on pollen and nectar before hibernating.

Main food

Self-heal



Red Clover



Knapweed



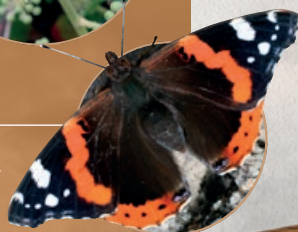
Ivy



Look out for

Red Admiral Butterfly, a large colourful butterfly, frequently seen feeding on Ivy flowers.

Common Carder Bee, probably the most common bumblebee you will see. It's the last one to go into hibernation so will still be spotted into early October.



Seasonal actions for pollinators

Autumn

SEPTEMBER

Keep some ivy on trees to provide 'shelter' and other suitable areas, to provide critical pollen/nectar-rich flowers in late autumn.

Activities

Collect some native wildflower and tree seeds on or near your farm. You can sow and grow these for next year's pollinators. <https://pollinators.ie/farmland>

The National Ploughing Championships take place in September www.npa.ie

Harvest from your hedgerows and fruit trees. It's a busy time with the farm harvest, your family can collect some hedgerow blackberries and enjoy them in an apple crumble.

OCTOBER

Leave some brambles, the hollow stems of dead brambles provide nesting and over-wintering sites for cavity nesting solitary bees.



NOVEMBER

Plant new hedgerows or restore existing 'gappy' hedgerows to provide additional shelter and food for pollinators.



NOVEMBER

If you cut your hedgerows annually, why not try to manage one third on a 3-year rotation. This will allow Hawthorn and Blackthorn to flower. Aim for your hedgerows to be as high as possible, at least 2.5m above ground level.

<https://pollinators.ie/farmland>

NOVEMBER

Do your hedgerows, areas of scrub or woodland connect? This will make it easier for pollinators and other wildlife to move safely around your farm, also known as wildlife corridors. You could encourage your neighbour to take action for pollinators on their farm.