

# Bumblebee lifecycle



Bumblebee Queen – Nest development and Queens and males mating.

## Main food

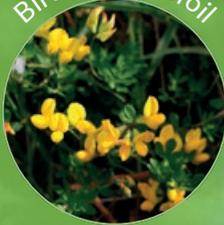
White clover

Bush vetch



Honeysuckle

Bird's foot trefoil



## Look out for

Leaf-cutter bees, these solitary bees cut circles of leaves or petals to line their nest. We have five different types in Ireland.



Red-tailed Bumblebee, this bumblebee is jet black with a red tail. Unfortunately, it has dramatically declined from farmland in recent decades.



Marmalade hoverfly, a small orange and black banded hoverfly, the larvae eat aphids and the adults feed on pollen and nectar on plants, so definitely a farmer's friend.



# Seasonal actions for pollinators

# Summer

## JUNE

Leave some non-farmed areas to allow wildflowers to naturally grow. This could be farmyards, lanes, field margins and corners, arable margins, watercourse margins.

## JULY

If applying fertilisers, leave an unfertilised field margin at the hedgerow base.



## AUGUST

Cut wildflowers areas from late August onwards, this will allow some seeds to set for next year. It's important to lift and remove the cuttings, this will allow our native wildflowers to flourish.

## AUGUST

Consider a multi-species sward, it will reduce your fertiliser use and it's great for pollinators.



# Activities

Try a Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT count), it only takes 10 minutes, to find out more <https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/flower-insect-timed-count-fit-count/>

Try a Garden Butterfly Survey, it just takes 15 minutes <https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/garden-butterfly-monitoring-scheme/>

See when your local Agriculture Show is taking place [www.irishshows.org](http://www.irishshows.org)

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