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BUSINESS SUPPORTERS NEWSLETTER: JUNE 2022

Dear All

Well we have another busy month ahead!

We are delighted to welcome the following companies/organizations as business supporters of the AIPP.

- *New Business Supporters include:* Westend Retail Park Management, Rejuice Ltd., Engine Lease Finance Corporation, Shannon Estuary Way Retreat, Jacobus Coaches Ltd., Gannon + Associates Landscape Architecture, Boston Scientific, Digital Realty, Sims Lifecycle Services, O'Brien Fine Foods and Sharp Group.

Thanks to all of you for your support and we look forward to seeing your mapped actions (now MANDATORY) on ['Actions for Pollinators'](#) - accountability-mapping portal.

Socials & Website - to find out more follow us on: Twitter @PollinatorPlan and Instagram @allirelandpollinatorplan OR visit the website [Latest News » All-Ireland Pollinator Plan \(pollinators.ie\)](#)

Sarah Kelly
Agri-business Officer

*The [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025](#), managed by the *National Biodiversity Data Centre*, a Heritage Council programme, actively addresses the time-critical pollinator-biodiversity challenge. It is a shared plan of action for the island now in its sixth year, which builds on the targets within *The EU 2030*

Biodiversity Strategy, Ireland's *National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021* (Objective 4) and is mentioned in Northern Ireland's *Biodiversity Plan to 2020*, to halt and reverse pollinator decline by 2030. It responds to the Irish Government's 2019 Biodiversity Emergency Declaration. It is also aligned with Bord Bia's Origin Green programme with reference to 'pollinator actions', and supports members' biodiversity targets.

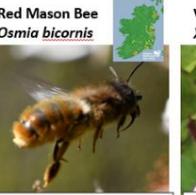
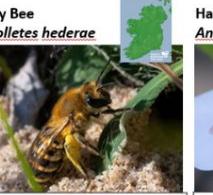
1. BEE WATCH: 10 solitary bees to watch out for!

This month, it's a [solitary bee garden bucket list](#)! Some of these are recent arrivals, so no one will be lucky enough to have all ten yet. Keep an eye out and see if you have any on your business site or in your garden.

PLEASE SUBMIT SIGHTINGS HERE: <https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/start-recording> to the *National Biodiversity Data Centre*. Not sure if you've correctly identified? Then attach a photo to the record being submitted.

SOLITARY BEES: 10 SPECIES YOU MIGHT SPOT IN YOUR GARDEN

More info: <https://pollinators.ie/record-pollinators/solitary-bees-for-beginners>
Submit record: <https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/solitary-bees>

<p>Grey Mining Bee <i>Andrena cineraria</i></p>  <p>When: March-June ID: Black bee with two grey hair bands across the thorax</p>	<p>Tawny Mining Bee <i>Andrena fulva</i></p>  <p>When: March-June ID: Deep red hairs on thorax, orange hairs on abdomen</p>	<p>Orange-tailed Mining Bee <i>Andrena haemorrhoa</i></p>  <p>When: March-August ID: Ginger thorax + orange hind legs + red hairs at tip of abdomen</p>	<p>Orange-legged Furrow Bee <i>Halictus rubicundus</i></p>  <p>When: March-September ID: Ginger thorax + orange hind legs + white bands on abdomen</p>	<p>Marsham's Nomad Bee <i>Nomada marshamella</i></p>  <p>When: April - August ID: Dark orange legs & antennae + black & yellow abdomen + 2nd yellow band broken in middle</p>
<p>Wool-carder Bee <i>Anthidium manicatum</i></p>  <p>When: June-August ID: Yellow markings on sides of the abdomen, head & legs</p>	<p>Red Mason Bee <i>Osmia bicornis</i></p>  <p>When: April-June ID: Brownish hairs on thorax, reddish hairs on abdomen, two facial horns below antennae.</p>	<p>Violet Carpenter Bee <i>Xylocopa violacea</i></p>  <p>When: June-August ID: Very large black bee with dark wings that have violet reflections</p>	<p>Ivy Bee <i>Colletes hederæ</i></p>  <p>When: September - November ID: Ginger thorax & pale bands on the abdomen. First recorded 2021</p>	<p>Hairy-footed Flower Bee <i>Anthophora plumipes</i></p>  <p>When: March-May ID: Males have a long fringe of hairs on lower middle leg. First recorded in Dublin City, 2022</p>

Photos: Lil Dunne, Jonathan Sexton, Jamie O'Neill, Liam Lysaght, Jimmy Goodwin, Finbarr Ryan, Liam Lysaght, John Breen Wikimedia Commons, Jim Kenny, Mary Molloy

2. TO DO THIS MONTH: avoid wild bee 'hunger gaps'

The bumblebees and solitary bees are earning their keep at the minute as they are busy pollinating! Make sure that your business site or garden has something flowering from March to October for them to feed on. Great food sources are the likes of naturally occurring *Clover* and *Bird's-foot-trefoil* outside the office or in your lawn as well as various trees and shrubs (*Laburnum*, *Lavender*, *Wallflower*, *Catmint*).

FOR PLANTING IDEAS REVIEW: [Carparks for Pollinators](#), pollinator-friendly [Garden Plants](#) and [Herbs for Pollinators](#).



3. THE PROBLEM WITH WILDFLOWER SEED MIXES ON YOUR BUSINESS SITE/ IN YOUR GARDEN!

Dr Noeleen Smyth has written a blog to highlight the problems around wildflower seed mixes and suggest alternative biodiversity actions. Noeleen is an Assistant Professor in Environmental Horticulture at UCD. She is a qualified botanist and chartered horticulturalist with 30 years' national and international experience.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

The Elephant in the Room: Wildflower Seed Mixes

27th May 2022

By Dr Noeleen Smyth



A non-native wildflower meadow, from a wildflower seed packet.

We would never tolerate the release of an exotic animal to our wider environment yet we appear happy to release packets of unregulated wildflowers.

Just as we enjoy seeing exotic animals from all over the world in a zoo and keeping domestic pets in our home environments, we would never tolerate a herd of roaming elephants, or cats and dogs wandering in packs around our housing estates. Seeing exotic wildflowers into our wider environment is as shocking to me as seeing a herd of elephants on the N7. We need to address the real elephant in the room which is the continued sale and use of inappropriate wildflower seed mixes.

All experts agree that these mixes, when sown outside gardens, are detrimental to local biodiversity. We have already seen the accidental introduction of "Black Grass" (*Alopecurus myosuroides*) from a wildflower seed mix, described as a "particularly pernicious weed" in the UK. We were lucky that here it was found in a Teagasc trial before it was planted into the margin of every tillage field in Ireland.

No regulations on wildflower seed mixes in Ireland

4. CALLING AGRI-BUSINESS/FARMER SUPPLIERS

POLLINATORS ACTION SHEET

New easy, evidence-based guidelines on creating solitary bee nest sites

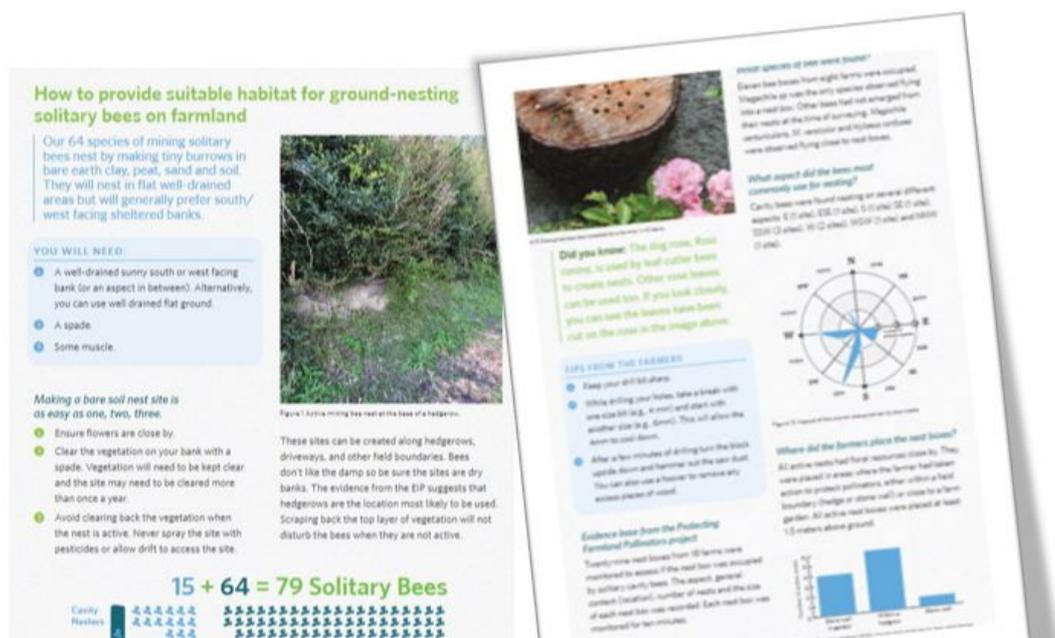
Over the coming year, the '[Protecting Farmland Pollinators](#)' research project within the *National Biodiversity Data Centre* will publish a series of evidence-based Action Sheets on how to best support pollinators on farmland. The first of these Action Sheets is now available: *How to create solitary bee nest sites on your farm/*

site. [READ/DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

This Action Sheet provides clear step-by-step instructions on how to create nesting sites for ground-nesting solitary bees and above-ground cavity nesting bees. It includes practical advice such as the tools you need, and tips from farmers who have already created nesting habitats on their own farms. As part of the project, farmers created over 300 nest sites for mining solitary bees and 130 sites for cavity nesting solitary bees. While the action sheet was developed for farmland, the learnings will apply across all sectors and be of relevance to anyone interested in the most effective way to create nesting habitat for solitary bees.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The next Bord Bia **Origin Green** 'Pathways to Biodiversity' - a company viewpoint (virtual) webinar, comprising 'short talks' from three companies, will be held on **14 September 2022 1000-1100**.



5. World Bee Day 2022

Many of you shared our message or took actions yourselves on World Bee Day (20th May). We are very grateful to you all for your support. To mark World Bee Day 2022, we recorded a series of three 'short talks': (i) *An Introduction to Ireland's Bees* (ii) *Top Ten Actions for Pollinators* (iii) *Recording Pollinators* [VIEW HERE](#)

BLOG - The Joy of Making Your Garden Pollinator Friendly

Check out the blog by Dr Una Fitzpatrick, Senior Ecologist at the *National Biodiversity Data Centre*, and *Co-Founder of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan*, on the different wild bees that have visited her garden over the last few years. At the minute the tally is 18! For a small urban garden, 18 out of a total of 100 wild bee species isn't bad. Especially when you consider that one third of our wild bees is threatened with extinction from the island of Ireland. [READ MORE HERE](#)

BECOME A RECORDING STAR* - FIT Count App (Beginner Level)

Want to be a Recording Star and help us collect more FIT (Flower Insect Timed) Count data? When it's sunny, watch a patch of flowers for 10 minutes and count how

many insects visit. The simple, user-friendly App, launched to coincide with World Bee Day, brings you through how to do the count and makes it very easy to upload the information to the *National Biodiversity Data Centre*. Thanks to those who have downloaded the free FIT Count App and who already watching and uploading! [READ MORE/DOWNLOAD HERE](#) OR Fancy your hand at monitoring Garden Butterflies? The *National Biodiversity Data Centre* also runs a Garden Butterfly Monitoring Scheme: [READ MORE HERE](#)

POLLINATOR RESEARCH IN IRELAND

To mark World Bee Day 2022, Prof. Jane Stout (co-founder of the AIPP) provided an update on the Irish Pollinator Research Network. Learn more about the fascinating research taking place in Ireland to underpin the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

The Basics of Bees 2: Top Ten Actions for Pollinators

An overview of the top ten things you can do to help pollinators, recommended by the All-Ireland Pollinat



The screenshot shows a video player interface. The video title is 'Top Ten Actions for Pollinators' and the current frame is titled '6. Pollinator-friendly planting'. The video content includes a list of bullet points and a grid of plant images. The bullet points are:

- Choose nectar and pollen-rich plants. Try to choose plants that will provide food throughout the year.
- Perennials are generally better than annuals
- Bidens and Bacopa look great in containers and hanging baskets
- Herbs such as Rosemary, Thyme, and Chives
- Bulbs like Snowdrops, Crocuses, and Grape Hyacinth provide vital early food.

The grid of plant images shows various flowers and plants, with a play button overlay in the center. The video player interface includes a 'Watch Later' button, a 'Share' button, and social media icons for 'KC' and 'ÚF'. A 'Watch on YouTube' button is visible at the bottom left of the video player.

6. POLLINATOR ACCOUNTABILITY WITH 'Actions for Pollinators' AIPP's data-mapping portal

Don't forget, mapping your actions on 'Actions for Pollinators' is now mandatory as a Business Supporter. We will publish your actions on www.pollinators.ie as part of your company's AIPP Annual Review in Q4 of 2022. This data-mapping provides vital information to help us to shape evidence-based actions. [START MAPPING HERE](#)

ARE YOUR ACTIONS REALLY WORKING?

Already mapped your actions? Why not encourage employees to track and submit what's happening actually on your site(s) using the easy, free FIT (Flower Insect Timed) Count App [READ MORE/DOWNLOAD HERE](#)



7. THINK 'PITCHES FOR POLLINATORS' - schools supporting wild bees

The summer schools pitch might look like long grass to humans, but chances are that amongst the grass there will be lots of little flowers that will be lifesavers to our insects. During term time, pitches and grassy areas will, naturally, be regularly mown giving kids important areas to play. However, during the summer holidays we are asking schools to consider leaving them for our pollinators.

If your business or employees are engaged with local schools, can you encourage School Groundskeepers to progress with the following guidance?:

- From the end of June until mid-August, leave pitches unmown to allow wildflowers to naturally grow and provide food for insects.
- If this isn't possible, consider mowing just once across this period.
- It's important that when you do mow, that you remove the grass cuttings. Our native wildflowers grow better in poorer quality soil. By removing the cuttings each summer, you slowly reduce the soil fertility. This means that each summer the pitches will become more and more flower rich for pollinators.

Having 'Pitches for Pollinators' in schools across the island will create lots of pockets of excellent summer habitat for biodiversity. If you have any contacts in schools, we'd be grateful if you can encourage them to leave 'Pitches for Pollinators'.

Is your business already working with a local school? Could you sponsor the printing of the [Junior Pollinator Plan](#) as a learning resource for that school? [READ MORE HERE](#)



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