

# Car Parks for Pollinators



## Eliminate pesticides

Pesticides can harm pollinators and kill the 'weeds' that provide them with important food.

## Plant native pollinator-friendly trees

Plant individual trees or add to an existing native hedgerow.

## Tell visitors about your work

Using signage or carefully mown strips around wildflower areas.

## Create nesting habitat

Wild pollinators need safe nesting habitats to allow next year's brood to grow. Earth banks, hedgerows, and gaps in old stone walls are all potential homes for bees.

## Protect what you have

Your car park may already provide food and shelter for pollinators, e.g. flowering hedgerows and trees.

## Pollinator-friendly planting

Pollinators need nectar for energy and pollen for protein. Some flowers aren't rich in nectar and pollen, such as Daffodils and Tulips.

## Bulk planting

Swathes of the same pollinator-friendly flower means wild bees can access plenty of food without traveling far.

## Don't mow, let it grow

Reducing mowing helps restore areas of native wildflowers, which our pollinators have evolved to feed on.

# How to manage car parks for pollinators

One third of Ireland's wild bees (bumblebees and solitary bees) are at risk of extinction due to the loss of food and shelter. There are simple things that can be done in car parks to help reverse their decline by creating a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive.

What?	How?
Protect what you have	Do not remove grassy areas to sow seeds. The best way to encourage wildflowers is reduce mowing.
Meadows and margins. Don't Mow, Let it Grow	<b>Short-flowering:</b> Cut every 4-6 weeks from mid-April – September. <b>Long-flowering:</b> 1 cut a year in September. For both options above remove grass after cutting to reduce soil fertility and let wildflowers grow.
Native trees	Retain native hedgerows and allow them to flower. Plant native pollinator-friendly trees.
Pollinator-friendly planting	For flower beds, planters or hanging baskets, choose species that are rich in pollen and nectar to provide food for pollinators. See the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan's Top Ten planting guide for ideas.
Eliminate pesticides	Avoid spraying chemicals. Remove weeds manually or with organic alternatives.
Create nesting habitat	Scrape back bare earth (south facing), leave some areas to grow wild, or drill holes in unvarnished wood.
Map and track	Go to <a href="http://pollinators.ie">pollinators.ie</a> and add your actions to the Actions for Pollinators data mapping portal.