

Top Ten Ways Residents' Associations can help Pollinators



1

Don't mow, let it grow

Pick some areas to cut and lift every 4-6 weeks, or once a year. Even verges or small strips will help.



2

Manage native hedgerows

Flowers grow on older wood, so cut every three years instead of annually.



3

Plant pollinator-friendly trees

Plant a young native tree such as Willow, Rowan or Holly, or grow them from seed.



4

Avoid pesticides

Try manual weeding instead, or let Dandelions bloom - they are one of the best food sources for bees.



5

Create nesting habitats

Scrape back some bare earth, or drill holes 10cm deep in unvarnished wood for solitary bees.



6

Choose nectar and pollen-rich plants

Add pollinator-friendly species into community planters and hanging baskets.



7

Don't get Honey bees to help biodiversity

They can compete for food with the wild pollinators who are already struggling.



8

Be careful with wildflower seed mixes

They can contain non-native species like poppies. Reduce mowing to encourage native wildflowers.



9

Keep insect hotels small

No bigger than a bird box. This prevents predators and disease.



10

Spread the word

Tell your community about the good work you are doing, by putting up signage and running workshops and nature walks.

Residents' Associations Actions for Pollinators



Most plants on the island of Ireland are pollinated by wild bees. We have over 100 species of bee, but a third are threatened with extinction due to the loss of habitat that provides them with food and shelter.

To give future generations access to crops and wild plants, we need to create a network of habitats to support pollinators. It's not about letting the landscape go wild, but managing it more sustainably to give them food, shelter, and safety. Every community, no matter how small, can play a part in creating an island where pollinators can survive and thrive.

Here are a few common species you may spot if you take pollinator-friendly actions in your local area.

Early Bumblebee



Ashy Mining Bee



Leafcutter Bee

www.pollinators.ie



Garden Tiger Moth



Marmalade Hoverfly



Red-tailed Bumblebee

A pollinator-friendly community provides FOOD in the form of pollen-rich flowers, SHELTER for nesting and SAFETY by reducing or eliminating chemicals.

Try to make sure your community has pollinator-friendly flowers in bloom throughout the year.

While reducing mowing and planting native trees and shrubs is always best for biodiversity, there are also lots of pollinator-friendly ornamental plants. Here is just a small selection:



Spring | Summer | Autumn | Winter



Grape Hyacinth

Wallflower



Broom

Comfrey



Allium

Nepeta Catnip



Lavender

Stonecrop



Rudbeckia

Dahlia



Aster

Salvia



Hellebore

Willow



Crocus

Snowdrop

Native flowering hedgerows

Blossom on plants like Hawthorn and Blackthorn provides food for pollinators coming out of hibernation.

Don't mow, let it grow!

Pollinators need native wildflowers like Dandelions and Clover that grow in areas of reduced mowing.

Avoid pesticides

Pesticides such as insecticides, herbicides and fungicides have been found to kill, harm, and disorientate pollinators.

Pollinator-friendly planting

Bulbs like Snowdrops and Crocuses, and perennials such as Lavender, Rosemary, Catmint and Rudbeckia provide colour and plenty of pollen and nectar.

Nesting habitat for wild bees

Wild pollinators need safe nesting habitats like bare earth banks in order to survive and thrive, and to allow next year's pollinators to grow and develop.

Plant a pollinator-friendly tree

Native trees and shrubs such as Willow, Hawthorn, Rowan, Crab Apple, and Holly support huge numbers of insects including pollinators.