

[View this email in your browser](#)



Business Supporters Newsletter: August 2023

The [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan](#) (AIPP) is a framework bringing together different sectors across the island of Ireland to create a landscape where pollinators can thrive. Implementation of the AIPP is coordinated by the [National Biodiversity Data Centre](#).

Dear All

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

New Business Supporters in July included: Spirit AeroSystems, Version 1 Group, 13-18 City Quay Dublin c/o Savills, Harmac Medical Products, The Frascati Centre, Colas Joint Venture, GreentechHQ Innovation Hub, Outcast Brands, Belfast International Airport, Flynn Construction

Want to align your Marketing Communications with AIPP?

[REVIEW HERE](#) the AIPP Abridged Comms Plan for 2023. Follow us on: X [@PollinatorPlan](#) and Instagram [@allirelandpollinatorplan](#).

Need ideas to help?

Employees take pollinator friendly actions: [READ MORE HERE](#)

Suppliers take pollinator-friendly actions: [READ MORE HERE](#)

Community take pollinator-friendly actions: [READ MORE HERE](#)

No physical site? No problem; there are lots of [communication actions](#) in which your business can participate across employees, community and suppliers.

'Impacts' & 'Dependencies': AIPP as an evidence-based, 'entry-level' into biodiversity on any site

- In the language of biodiversity we often talk of 'impacts' and 'dependencies'. Simply put - we are '*dependent*' on pollinators (wild bees) for pollination of crops, trees, flowers etc. and we know we can have an almost immediate '*impact*' on their environment by delivering AIPP evidence-based actions. We also know that as we start taking AIPP actions for pollinators, we are impacting on wider biodiversity.
- So, don't 'overthink' what your company might do for biodiversity. Focus on pollinators first, which can be cost-neutral or low cost, and then add other biodiversity year on year.
- Why not start with your [car park](#) and surrounding grassy areas? [Reduce mowing](#) to create naturally re-generated wildflower areas and choose planting options from our [TOP TEN](#) planting guide.
- REMEMBER choose an alternative action to [wildflower seed mixes](#) and [honeybee hives](#) neither of which is a biodiversity action.
- Also can you choose (i) Peat-free compost (ii) Pesticide-free bulbs/shrubs/trees (iii) Provenance-Irish native trees (N.B. a Blackthorn from Central/Eastern Europe will flower at the wrong time of year for our wild bees) (iv) Eco-alternatives to pesticides - BUT continue to spot spray [invasive species](#).

Sarah Kelly

Agri/Business Officer

*The [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025](#), co-ordinated by the [National Biodiversity Data Centre](#), actively addresses the time-critical pollinator-biodiversity challenge. It is a shared plan of action for the island now in its seventh 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 which happened alongside the Climate Declaration. It is also aligned with Bord Bia's Origin Green programme with reference to 'pollinator actions', and, supports members' biodiversity targets.

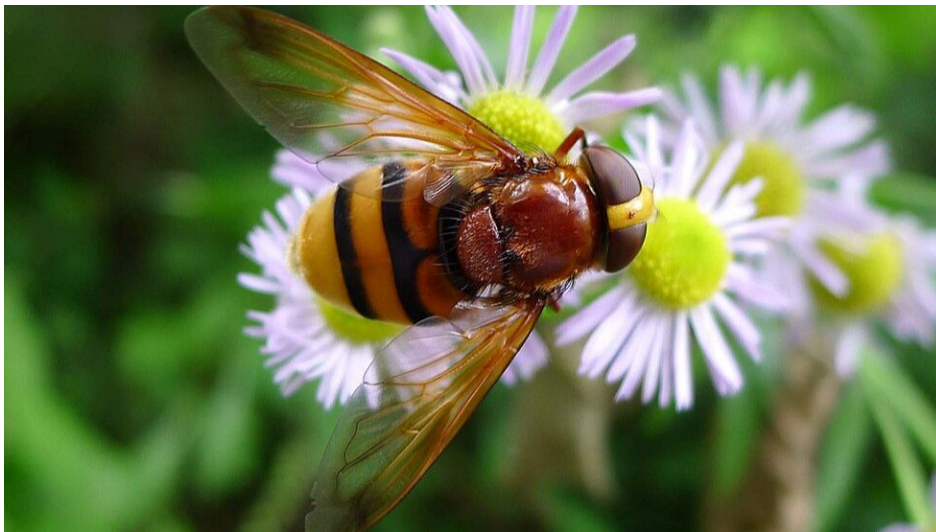
Thanks to the funders of the Agri-business Officer position: [Bord Bia Origin Green's](#) food sustainability programme and [Business for Biodiversity Ireland](#), Ireland's new biodiversity hub.

POLLINATOR WATCH: new hoverfly recorded in Ireland for the first time - spotted one near you?

The Hornet Plumehorn (*Volucella zonaria*) established in Britain in the 1940s, and was recorded for the first time in Ireland last month. It was spotted in July by David McAdams & Killian Mullarney at Churchtown in Co Wexford.

In Britain, *Volucella zonaria* occurs in a range of habitats, but can be especially frequent in suburban settings with good populations of Common (and German) Wasps. The larvae develop as scavengers and larval predators in social wasp nests. In Britain, it occurs from May to November, but peaks in August.

It is a very large hoverfly and can be recognised by its yellow and black banded abdomen, where the upper band is chestnut in colour. If you think you have spotted it, please take a photograph, and send to us for confirmation. PIC: gailhampshire (Wikimedia Commons).



Submit your hoverfly sightings

BUSINESS SUPPORTERS: ANNUAL REVIEW 2023

It's that time of year again!

As a Business Supporter we require you to report to us annually on evidence-based actions delivered by your business. Reporting as a Business Supporter comprises:

- 1) Submitting a simple 250-words structured within this [short questionnaire](#). N.B. Refer to the [Businesses: actions for pollinators](#) guidelines to ensure your reporting is aligned.
- 2) PLUS mapping actions on [Actions for Pollinators](#) (GIS) biodiversity-accountability portal.
 - PLEASE submit your Annual Review questionnaire as a Word doc. to skelly@biodiversityireland.ie by **12 noon on Friday 29 September 2023** and include confirmation of mapped actions on [Actions for Pollinators](#) (GIS) biodiversity-accountability portal.
 - [REVIEW 2022 AIPP Business Supporters Annual Review](#)
 - **NOTE:** We will send ONE reminder email. Should your business/organization fail to submit the Annual Review Questionnaire (including mapped actions), AIPP will assume you no longer wish to



Guide on creating meadows in local communities, business sites and gardens

TO DO THIS MONTH: Bee hotel not being used?

Consider moving it to a new location

Now is the perfect time to check if your bee box has been used this year. These boxes are mainly used by two types of solitary bees - leaf cutter bees and mason bees. Leaf cutter bees cut circular pieces of leaves and use them to line the cells in the nest. The Red Mason bee lines the cells of its nest with mud. Check if any of the cavities in your next box are closed off with pieces of leaf or with mud. If there are all still empty, it hasn't been used this year. In that case, it's worth moving it to a new location. The more flowers there are around your nest box, the more likely it is to be found and used.



Ideal size for a solitary bee nest box

- You'll know your bee box/hotel is being used if the cavity entrances have been closed off with pieces of leaf or mud. If it's not being used, consider moving it to a new location
- They should be placed 1.5-2m off the ground in a sheltered south or east facing location
- They must be close to food sources – solitary bees don't fly far!
- These boxes only target a small number of our cavity nesting solitary bees. Don't forget that 80% of our solitary bees nest in bare ground which is even easier to create by scraping back vegetation!
- Larger bee boxes or insect hotels will attract predators and are more likely to harbour disease

NEW: 'Resources for Business'

section on www.pollinators.ie/businesses/

As a Business Supporter you will be following the suggested evidence-based actions listed **A-F** in the [Businesses: actions to help pollinators](#) guidelines, aligned to ISO14001:2015 and currently being updated.

If you, or your Landscape Contractor/Grounds Maintenance company are working on a specific area of your site e.g. Native hedgerow management, pollinator-friendly trees, or converting grassy areas to 'Meadows for pollinators' then there are companion resources to help in your decision making in relation to these important habitats [REVIEW RESOURCES](#).

For Agri-food Processors - consider inviting farm suppliers/growers to review the AIPP [Farmland: actions to help pollinators](#) guidelines.

PIC: Ruth Wilson - Buff-tailed bumblebee on [Common Knapweed](#) (REVIEW Page 19 - for information on 'species richness' in a naturally regenerated Meadow).



Tralee Wild Bee Festival: 12-13 August 2023

The 2023 festival, set in the beautiful surroundings of the Tralee Bay Wetlands, will feature a series of walks and talks led by biodiversity experts and community groups on these important insects and the simple actions we can take to help them. Admission to these events is free. Places are limited on the walks so please contact Tralee Bay Wetlands to register your interest.

The 2023 Festival is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, in collaboration with Kerry County Council, Tralee Bay Wetlands, Transition Kerry, Tralee Tidy Towns and the Irish Wildlife Trust (Kerry branch).

There will also be two paid National Biodiversity Data Centre workshops across the weekend, which can be booked [HERE](#).

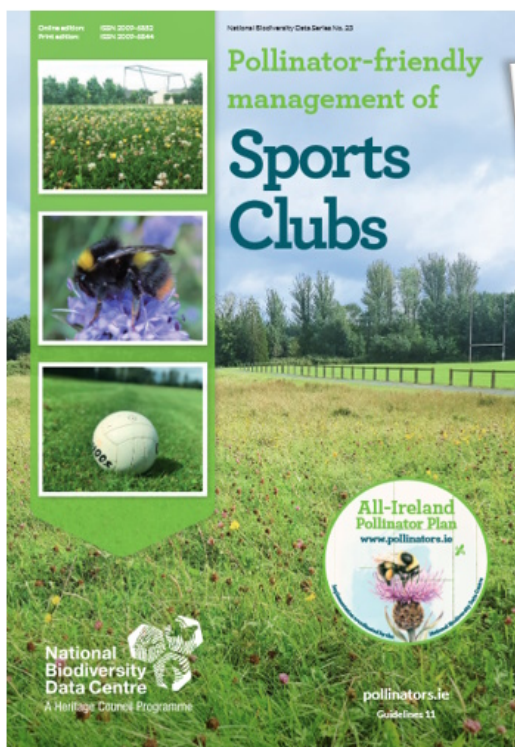
- Identifying Ireland's Bumblebees
- Meadow Management & Seed Collecting



[Read more](#)

Can your business help us promote the Sports Club guidelines?

August is a time when many sports clubs begin their season again. With approximately 15,000 clubs across the island, sports clubs can play a vital role in the conservation of our biodiversity. Our *'Pollinator-friendly management of Sports Clubs'* guide suggests 10 actions to help pollinators, ranging from reduced mowing on off-pitch grass to planting a native tree walking trail. There are actions for all types of clubs, and both rural and urban, regardless of how much outdoor space a club might have. If you have links to a local club, we'd hugely appreciate you encouraging them to get involved in helping pollinators-biodiversity. If your business is already engaged with a GAA Club check out the [GAA Green Club - Biodiversity](#) section of their Green Club Toolkit.



DRIVING BIODIVERSITY MEASUREMENT:

Are pollinators thriving on your business site?

FIT Counts are a really important way to help us monitor pollinator activity and is one of the simplest recording initiatives available. It will help you track what is happening on your business site(s). Maybe invite employees to conduct FIT Counts on your site or in their gardens?

3 Steps to a FIT Count: (1) Download the free FIT Count App. (2) Watch a 50x50cm patch of flowers for 10 minutes, and, (3) Count how many insects visit.

Why not try one where you are to see how your business site compares? In 2022, the average number of insects recorded on a FIT Count was 8. Don't be too discouraged if your 2023 counts are low – the poor weather will have an impact!

In August its especially useful to carry out FIT Counts on *Knapweed* or *Ragwort* (one of our 15 target flowers), however, you can conduct it on other flowers too. N.B. A FIT Count can be carried out anywhere, and on any flower. Don't forget, ALL submissions are validated.

Consider inviting employees in 2024 to participate in the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme.

Keen to start to measure what is on your business site?

- COMMISSION a Baseline Ecological Survey and repeat every 3 or 5 years. When making changes on your business site, this type of survey will inform good decision-making. e.g. don't strip out a meadow and replace with trees. Retain what is great on site.
- 'LOCATE' species on/adjacent to your site Maps - Biodiversity Maps (biodiversityireland.ie)
- MAP evidence-based actions your business has delivered on 'Actions for Pollinators' - GIS biodiversity-accountability portal. Mapping actions is now MANDATORY and it is part of the requirement for AIPP participation.
- MANAGE and map invasive species on your site via www.invasives.ie
- Agri-food Processors' (Farm Suppliers/Growers) can check out the 'Biodiversity on Your Farm' - a simple farmers recording initiative (no experience necessary). Based on the AIPP Farmland: actions to help pollinators guidelines.

Already monitoring pollinators?

Why not participate in the National Biodiversity Data Centre's *Garden Butterfly Monitoring Scheme* (LINK below)?

Pollinator monitoring: Flower-Insect Timed Counts (FIT Counts)

<https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/fit-counts/>

Watch a 50cm x 50cm patch of flowers for 10 minutes and count how many insects visit.
This scheme runs from April until September

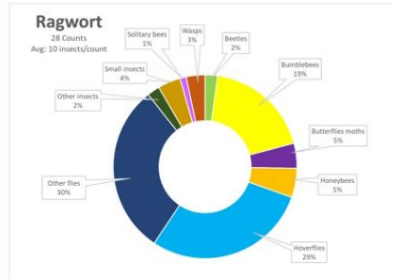
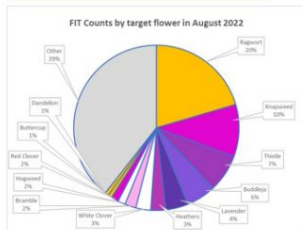


AUGUST

Target Flowers: This month please try to carry out FIT Counts on **Knapweed** or **Ragwort**. Other good target flowers are Bramble, Lavender, Hogweed, White Dead-nettle, White Clover, Red Clover, Buddleja, Heathers, Thistle.



August 2022	
Total number of FIT Counts	137
Average insects/FIT Count	11.0



Based on the 2022 data, a wide range of different insects used Ragwort last August



Bumblebee on Ragwort (Shannen O'Brien)

[FIT Count website](#)

[Garden Butterfly Monitoring Scheme](#)

If you are not subscribed to this newsletter and would like to be added to the mailing list, [click here](#)



The National Biodiversity Data Centre is a Company Limited by Guarantee. Register Number: 730718.

National Biodiversity Data Centre, SETU West Campus, Carriganore, Waterford, Ireland, X91PE03

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).