

[View this email in your browser](#)



Business Supporters Newsletter: March 2024

Dear All

We are delighted to welcome the following companies/organizations as business supporters of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP): Turmec, Ten Square, Dunleavy Meats and O'Brien Landscapes.

March is the month when 'Pollinators emerge from hibernation'

Pollinators are starting to emerge from hibernation. See if you can spot the first bumblebees, solitary bees, hoverflies and moths. Are any pollinators feeding or nesting on land you own or manage? To track/measure what's happening on your site, consider participating in the [Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme](#) (See article below). Also, remember to review our [Resources](#) this month when planning / managing (or sponsoring) for pollinators-biodiversity.

Tools to help

Discover which biodiversity is already on or 'adjacent' to your site through [Biodiversity Maps](#).

Check out our companion project www.invasives.ie if managing invasive species on your site.

Watch out next month for the new [Local Communities](#) guide which will help your business understand how to interact with local groups to support pollinators.

Sarah Kelly
Agri/Business officer

[Business for Biodiversity \(BFBI\)](#)

For businesses keen to explore the emerging nature/biodiversity reporting

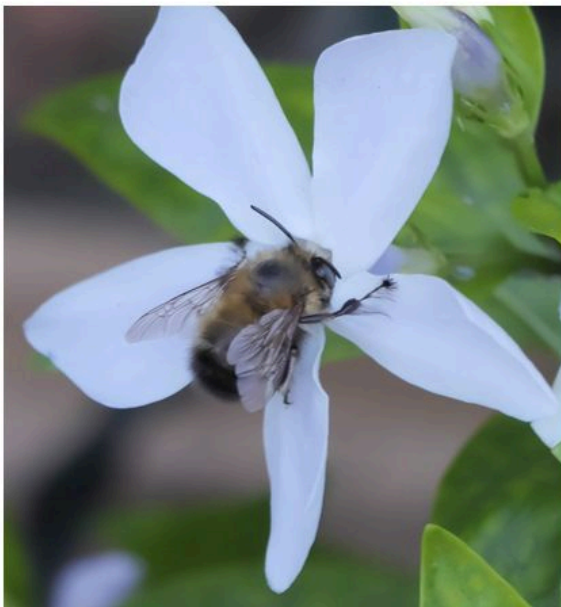
structures and types of approaches to consider, check out the government-backed national platform [Business for Biodiversity Ireland](#) which is now 'live' and will be [providing webinars, knowledge and learning](#) opportunities.

National Biodiversity Data Centre

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](#).

WILD BEE WATCH: Keep an eye out for the Hairy-footed Flower Bee

The Hairy-footed Flower Bee (*Anthophora plumipes*) was first recorded from Ireland in March 2022 in Dublin City. It is a large solitary bee, but can look like a bumblebee. The males and females can be different to each other. The female can resemble a small black bumblebee with distinctive orange hairs on the hind leg. In Britain, it shows a preference for the plant Lungwort. Males have light brown/ginger hairs all over their body and cream markings on their face. They also have distinctive long orange hairs on their middle legs and feet, which is where the species gets its name. Their quick darting flight motion is a good way to tell them apart from bumblebees. Keep an eye out, and send a photo if you think you find any new populations this spring! PICS: Martin Fitzpatrick.



Hairy-footed Flower Bee Male



Hairy-footed Flower Bee Female

SUBMIT SOLITARY BEE SIGHTINGS ON YOUR BUSINESS SITE

TO DO THIS MONTH: Track pollinators on your business site

Within the [National Biodiversity Data Centre](#), we have been tracking bumblebees since 2012, through a citizen science scheme called the [Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme](#). On an island scale, the scheme helps us understand if bumblebees are increasing or declining. At business site level, it's a great way to assess the 'impact' of actions your business is taking in support of the [Pollinator Plan](#) (N.B. Pollination is an ecosystem service and a 'dependency'). Consider inviting your Green Team, Biodiversity Champion(s) or interested employees to participate in this scheme.

What does the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme comprise?

Volunteers within this scheme walk a fixed ~1km route once a month (March to October) and count the number of different bumblebees they spot. It does require a time commitment in learning how to identify the different bumblebee species but there is lots of support to help beginners. N.B. On a monthly bumblebee walk you will probably only see 6 or 7 species of the 21 species of bumblebees on the island. March is the best time for beginners to join, as in early spring there are fewer different species to learn to identify. If interested in becoming a volunteer, take our free course in identifying bumblebees which also explains how the scheme works: <https://biodiversityireland.ie/identifying-irish-bumblebees/lesson.html> The scheme has been building year on year through our amazing volunteers, and we are keen to add a further 20 participant walks. If some employees decide they'd like to give it a try, please email Una FitzPatrick directly ufitzpatrick@biodiversityireland.ie to start the scheme and receive the Monitoring Scheme monthly newsletter which provides useful hints and tips.

Flower Insect Timed (FIT) Counts

If this feels too ambitious in 2024 consider directing employees towards [entry-level FIT Counts](#). All you have to do is watch a 50cm² patch of flowers for ten minutes a week (between April and September) and 'tap what you see' on a really intuitive App..

NOTE: Both the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme and Flower Insect Timed (FIT) Counts are scientifically robust monitoring mechanisms which will **formally demonstrate improvements in pollinators-biodiversity on your business site**.

The screenshot shows a web-based course interface. On the left is a 'Menu' with a tree structure:

- 1. Course Welcome and Introduction
 - 1.1. How to Identify and Record Common Irish Bumblebees (highlighted)
 - 1.2. Welcome
 - 1.3. Course structure
 - 1.4. Course structure ...continued
 - 1.5. Navigating the course
- 2. Bumblebee Biology
- 3. Identifying Common Bumblebees
- 4. Recording and Monitoring
- 5. Background to the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme
- 6. References and Acknowledgements

The main content area is titled 'How To Identify and Record Common Irish Bumblebees' and features a large heading 'What's That Buzz?'. Below this is a sub-heading 'How to Identify and Record Common Irish Bumblebees'. There are six small images of bumblebees, each with a caption:

- Common carder bee
- Buff-tailed bumblebee
- Red-tailed bumblebee
- White-tailed bumblebee
- Early bumblebee
- Garden bumblebee

At the bottom of the course page, there are logos for 'Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh Limerick City & County Council', 'EUROPEAN GREEN LEAF', and 'National Biodiversity Data Centre Documenting Ireland's Wildlife'. A 'Click NEXT to continue' button is visible at the bottom right, and a 'NEXT' button is at the bottom right of the screenshot. The footer includes '©Elizabeth Gabbett 2020' and a search bar.

POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PROCUREMENT: What to consider when buying products or services

It is important when buying plants, products or services from nurseries or garden centres, or landscapers/ grounds maintenance companies, to ensure your procurement aligns with AIPP recommendations. That might mean sourcing **products** such as Peat-free compost or Irish provenance native pollinator-friendly trees. Procuring landscape management **services** might require an understanding of AIPP reduced mowing recommendations, and pollinator-friendly hedgerow management. There are simple ways to ensure that when your business is procuring (and indeed sponsoring) that this money supports pollinator-friendly evidence-based actions. **And do remember to focus on evidence-based actions. Not all actions are helpful or pollinator-friendly!** READ the latest article on 'Pollinator-friendly procurement for business sites'.

Online edition: ISSN 2009-6852
Print edition: ISSN 2009-6844

National Biodiversity Data Series No. 10

Businesses:

actions to help

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

www.pollinators.ie

Implementation coordinated by the

National Biodiversity Data Centre

pollinators.ie

Guidelines 3

PRODUCTS - procurement for your site

When buying plants or products from nurseries or garden centres, or through third parties such as landscapers, grounds maintenance, facilities management or asset management companies, ensure your purchases comply with AIPP recommendations. Review the individual guidelines at: <https://pollinators.ie/resources/> Give particular consideration to the following:

What to buy	AIPP recommendations	Further information
Native trees and hedgerows	Ensure you purchase native and local provenance stock.	See Native Pollinator-friendly Trees and How-to-guide: Hedgerows for Pollinators.
Heritage fruit trees	Help preserve Ireland's genetic diversity by choosing heritage fruit trees for your orchard.	See How-to-guide: Traditional Orchards and Fruit Trees for Pollinators.
Pollinator-friendly ornamental planting	Choose pollinator-friendly flowers, bulbs, shrubs and trees. Make sure any plants you buy have not been treated with pesticides.	See Pollinator-friendly Planting Code.
Peat-free compost	Use peat free compost and help protect important peatland habitats.	
Avoid pesticides, herbicides, insecticides	Choose alternatives to pesticides, insecticides, herbicides. N.B. Purchase horticultural plants that have not been pretreated with pesticides.	See advice on pesticide alternatives at: www.pollinators.ie

SERVICES - procurement for site management

Ongoing pollinator-friendly management, such as reduced mowing, is vital for creating a landscape where biodiversity can thrive. When procuring and planning management and maintenance of your business site, ensure that pollinator-friendly practices align with the relevant AIPP guidelines. These guidelines can be downloaded for free from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan website at <https://pollinators.ie/resources/> Some common services are listed below:

Service	AIPP recommendations and resources
Managing native hedgerows	See How-to-guide: Hedgerows for Pollinators.
Creating meadows through reduced mowing	See How-to-guide: Creating and restoring meadows in local communities and gardens. Note: Consider asking the management company to use a Zero Grazer to cut and lift grass within short or long-flowering meadows.
Creating and managing orchards	See How-to-guide: Traditional Orchards and Fruit Trees for Pollinators.

NEW CASE STUDIES: AIPP business supporters case studies

We are delighted to announce a new Case Studies section of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan website (www.pollinators.ie) for business supporters. Case studies provide a useful tool to help businesses understand what pollinator-friendly, evidence-based actions look like in companies of different sizes and sectors. The first six case studies have been developed from the AIPP [Business Supporters Annual Review 2023](#) submissions. Each action listed within each case study relates back to the specific evidence-based action found within the new [Businesses: actions to help pollinators](#) guidelines. We are so grateful to our first six businesses: Aurivo Ltd, Mannok, McBride Fishing, Member First Credit Union, the Shannon Airport Group and The Culinary Food Group. PIC: Arek Gdulinski, the Shannon Airport Group – reduced mowing meadow with rare orchid



REVIEW CASE STUDIES: AIPP business supporters

NEW ONLINE COURSE: Pollinator-friendly farming

The [National Biodiversity Data Centre](#) is delighted to release a new free online training course on 'pollinator-friendly farming' aimed at farmers, farm advisors and agricultural students. This also will be helpful for Agri-food Processors when interacting with their farm-suppliers/growers, food retailers and their farmer supply chains and for semi-states whose landowners are farmers.

The course aims to help farmers make their farms more pollinator-friendly (with no impact on daily farm business) through evidence-based actions, with information on what wild pollinators need, in terms of food, safety and shelter. The course is underpinned by the AIPP [Farmland: actions to help pollinators](#) guidelines. We hope the course will give farmers an insight into the wonderful world of pollinating insects and why pollinators are so important on the farm and in the wider countryside. The course takes around

30 minutes to complete and is open to all. NOTE: For a step-by-step on how Agri-food Processors might interact further with their farm suppliers/growers read more [HERE](#).

National Biodiversity Data Centre
Decommissioning Ireland's Biodiversity

Home Sign In

Pollinator-friendly farming

Welcome to this course for farmers, farm advisors and agricultural students, as part of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, implemented by the National Biodiversity Data Centre and supported by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Enroll for free

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan
www.allirelandpollinatorplan.ie

An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

What will you learn?

This course is a training module for farmers, farm advisors and agricultural students, on how farmers can make their farms more pollinator-friendly.

- ✓ Understand why pollinators are important.
- ✓ Find out a little about the pollinators found on farmland.
- ✓ Find out what pollinators need.
- ✓ Understand what actions can be taken to make farmland more pollinator-friendly.
- ✓ Links to further information and guidance on pollinator-friendly farming.

[READ MORE & TAKE THE COURSE](#)

Keen to subscribe your Green Team, Biodiversity Champion(s) OR employees to the newsletter? [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](#).