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Business Supporters Newsletter: September 2025

Dear All

We are delighted to welcome the following companies/ organizations as business supporters of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP): Glenisk, Dole Ireland and Plan BEE.

September 2025's newsletter includes:

- To spot this month - **Common Carder bumblebee**
- **Submit Your Business Supporters' Annual Review and log 'Actions for Pollinators' GIS by 30.09.25**
- To do this month - **Plan to cut (and lift) your long-flowering meadows/areas**
- **BIOSECURITY ALERT - issued for Asian Hornet in Ireland (Cork)**
- This month's pollinator-positive task - **Can you help find populations of the Ivy bee?**
- Help us reach 1500 FIT Counts this month - **Carry out 10-minute FIT Counts on your site on Ivy**
- Pollinator Noticeboard September 2025 - **including blogs, tips, and 2026 ideas as you set your budget.**

ESG | CSRD | BIODIVERSITY | NATURE-POSITIVE

- **[Business for Biodiversity \(BFBI\)](#)** - explore approaches to nature-positive through the FREE [#Discovery Track of the Nature Strategy Accelerator Programme](#). Avail of webinars, knowledge sharing and Communities of Practice in relation to CSRD (and VSME). For more information contact Emer.NiDhuill@businessforbiodiversity.ie

- **Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI)** - explore [BITCI's Business Working Responsibly Mark \("The Mark"\)](#) Ireland's *Environmental, Economic, Social and Governance* (EESG) standard. Third-party verified by the [National Standards Authority of Ireland](#). Now available is [Accelerate - The Business Pact for Climate and Nature](#). For more information contact Cillian McMahon CMcMahon@bitc.ie

TO SPOT THIS MONTH: keep an eye out for the Common Carder Bumblebee

By September, many of our bumblebees are thinking about hibernation. One of the last to be spotted is the Common Carder Bumblebee (*Bombus pascuorum*) which still flies into October. Keep an eye out for this very common bumblebee this month. It is variable and can become bleached in the sun. However, there are no other bumblebees that have all ginger hairs on the thorax, a ginger tail and then some black hairs on the abdomen. The photograph below shows two Common Carder bees on Knapweed.



SUBMIT: your bumblebee sightings

AIPP BUSINESS SUPPORTERS ANNUAL REVIEW: Report to us (~300 words) AND map GIS actions by 30 September 2025

We are at that time of year again: AIPP Annual Review time. Reporting is now mandatory for all AIPP business supporters, by 30 September 2025.

Remember to align your reporting to the AIPP Checklist on Page 34-35 of [Businesses: actions to help pollinators](#).

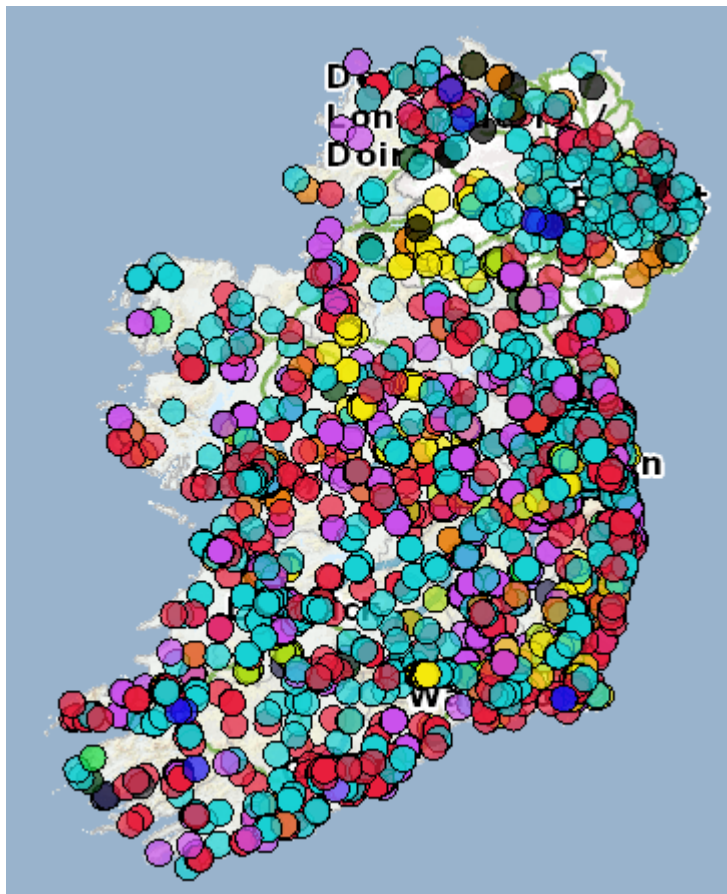
Reporting requires TWO mandatory steps:

Step 1: A **written submission** via MS Forms of circa 300 words (including Tick boxes) highlighting which AIPP biodiversity actions you delivered on your business site or through sponsorship on third party sites, including any tracking and monitoring, and,

Step 2: **Logging Actions for Pollinators** on our GIS system.

Keen to review how you reported last year? Or new to the reporting? Check out previous Annual Reviews by clicking the link below.

Need a refresher on logging Actions for Pollinators, AIPP's GIS system? Contact Sarah Kelly skelly@biodiversityireland.ie



SUBMIT: Your AIPP Business Supporters' Annual Review via MS Forms

AND, log 'Actions for Pollinators' on our GIS platform

TO DO THIS MONTH: plan to cut and lift your long-flowering meadows

September is the time when long flowering meadows/areas on your business site should be cut, and the grass removed. Having these meadows, however small, is a fantastic action for biodiversity as it is returning a vital species-rich grassland habitat that has been lost in Ireland.

September is the ideal time to cut and lift. Please be aware that some Councils and large organisations may have cut earlier than this. This can occur where they have large areas to mow before the weather changes and the ground becomes too wet for large machinery. Some flexibility in cutting is fine.

More important is that the grass is removed. Fertilising or mulching grass back in will enrich the soil and give grasses an advantage over any of our naturally occurring native flowers.

Flower-rich meadows are a very fragile habitat that require the correct management each year. Photo below shows cutting and baling in an urban meadow by Waterford City and County Council in previous years.



GUIDE: Creating and restoring meadows in local communities (business sites) and gardens

VIDEO: Top tips for creating a meadow

BIOSECURITY ALERT: Issued for Asian Hornet

In August, the National Parks and Wildlife Service confirmed the capture of an Asian Hornet (*Vespa velutina*) in the Cork City area, triggering a biosecurity alert for Ireland.

While not a major public health threat, Asian Hornets pose a serious risk to pollinators, especially honey bees, with even a single nest capable of significant damage.

A new government-led Asian Hornet Management Group (AHMG), chaired by NPWS and including the Department of Agriculture, National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC), and the National Museum of Ireland, has been formed to coordinate the response.

The hornet was first reported via the Invasive Species Record Form by a member of the public, triggering the NBDC alert system. A photograph included in the record was used to confirm identification by entomologists. A survey team was deployed immediately, and an individual hornet was trapped on August 12th. Since then, the nest has been located, and plans are in place for its removal.

This is Ireland's second confirmed sighting; the first occurred in Dublin in 2021. The public is urged to stay alert and report sightings through the NBDC portal with a photo if possible. Do not approach or disturb the insect (or the nest).

Asian Hornets, native to Southeast Asia, were first recorded in Europe in 2004 and have since spread widely. Early detection remains key to preventing establishment in Ireland. The Centre (NBDC) thanks the public, beekeepers and local communities for their cooperation.

Asian Hornet (*Vespa velutina*)

Asian Hornet (*Vespa velutina*)

Size: medium (2-3 cm)
Colour: Body black, tail orange-tipped
Irish Status: Non-native / alien invasive



Most Commonly Confused Native Species

Giant Woodwasp (*Urocerus gigas*)

Size: very large insect (5+ cm)
Colour: yellow & black
Other: tail with long ovipositor
Irish Status: native & widespread



Common Wasp (*Vespula vulgaris*)

Size: small (1-2 cm)
Colour: yellow & black
Irish Status: native, widespread & common



Other Commonly Confused Native Species



Drone Fly
Eristalis tenax



Birch Sawfly
Cimbex femoratus



Spotted Longhorn
Rutpela maculata



Honeybee
Apis mellifera



Giant Horsefly
Tabanus sudeticus

DOWNLOAD: Asian Hornet Identification Guide

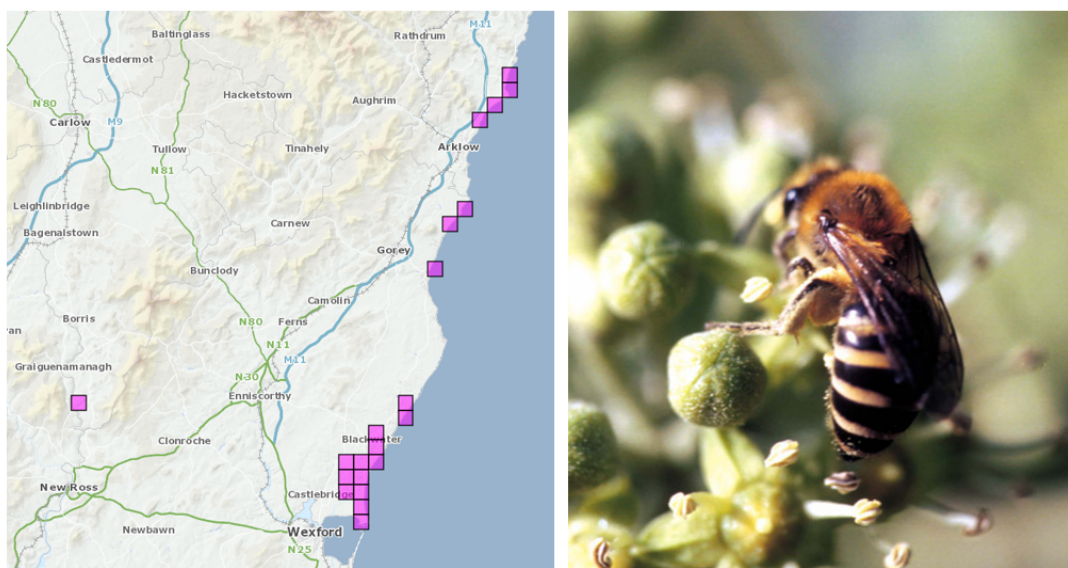
RECORD/SUBMIT: Possible Asian Hornet sightings here (please include a photograph if possible)

THIS MONTH'S POLLINATOR-POSITIVE TASK: Can you help find new populations of the Ivy Bee?

The Ivy Bee (*Colletes hederæ*) is one of our most recent, and welcome, bee arrivals. It was first spotted at the Raven Nature Reserve (Wexford) in October 2021. It's a solitary bee with an autumn flight period, to match the flowering of its favourite plant - Ivy. It nests in south facing banks of light soil. It's current distribution, based on data held in Biodiversity Maps (to end of 2024), is below.

The Ivy Bee is quite large and has very distinctive bands of white on the abdomen.

To make it a little easier, most of our important solitary bees have completed their life cycles now, although there will still be hoverflies, wasps and honey bees on the wing. It's likely to be around from mid-September until mid-October. Particularly check in areas along the east and south coasts. Submit your record if you think you've spotted this bee. Please attach a photograph if it's from a new location.



SUBMIT: Your solitary bee sightings

ACCESS: Free, online solitary bee course

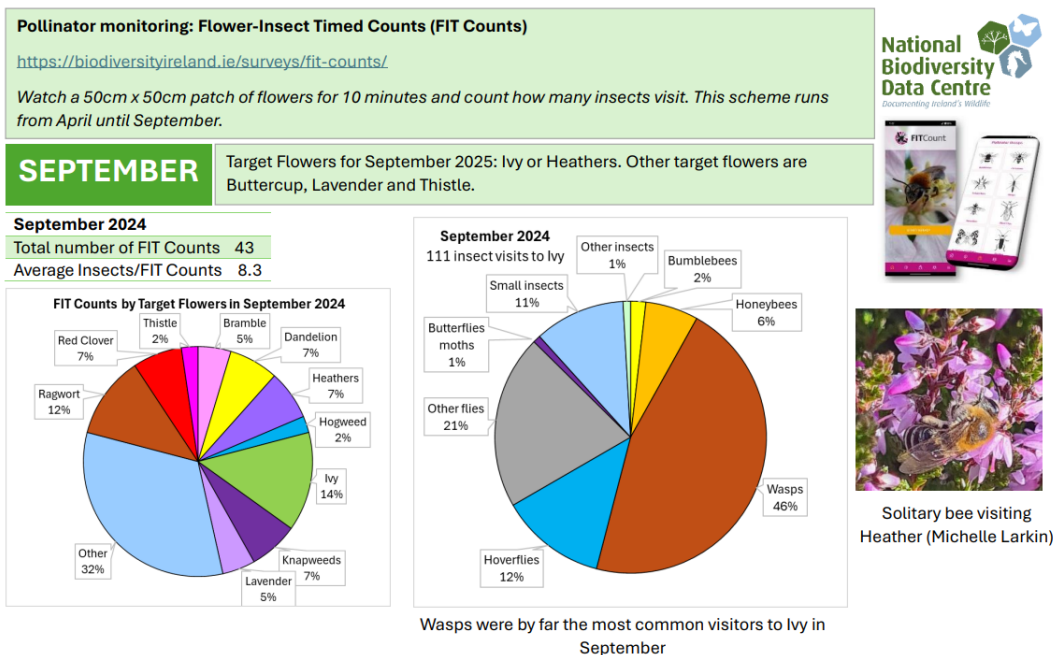
Help us reach 1500 FIT Counts in the last month of 2025's biodiversity tracking: Carry out a 10-minute Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count)

FIT Counts are an important, scientifically robust, way that you can help monitor pollinators on your business site.

Download the free FIT Count App, watch a 50x50cm patch of flowers for 10 minutes and count how many insects visit. You can carry out a FIT Count anywhere, and on any flower, but where you can, please use one of our 15 target flowers. In September, it's especially useful to carry out FIT Counts on Ivy.

In 2024, 784 validated FIT Counts were submitted by 135 different volunteers. The average number of insects per FIT Count was 7. Why not try one where you are to see how your business site compares?

Almost 1,400 FIT Counts have been submitted through the app for 2025. Can you help us reach 1,500 counts by the end of September? This would be our highest number of counts ever submitted for one year!



LEARN MORE ABOUT FIT COUNTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS SITE

CHECK OUT: Garden Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (run by the National Biodiversity Data Centre)

POLLINATOR NOTICEBOARD: September 2025

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 24 September 2025 - Webinar Business for Biodiversity Ireland's Nature Accelerator Programme (#Discovery Track) Contact: Emer.NiDhuill@businessforbiodiversity.ie

RESOURCES - BLOGS - WEBINARS - EVENTS etc.

- Read the new blog from the AIPP's Farmland Pollinator Officer, Ruth Wilson '[Make hay while the sun shines](#)'.
- [Check out the free, online farmland hedgerow course](#) - suitable for business sites with farmer neighbours.

- **Can you support a UCD study which is looking for Andrena nests (solitary mining bees)?** The team led by Dr Darren O'Connell is looking to gain a greater understanding of the ecology of the solitary mining bees, the Andrena. The research team is seeking locations where large, regular aggregations of Andrena nests are found, particularly summer flying species. Do you have suitable locations on your business site? Please contact darren.oconnell@ucd.ie or niamh.kennedy6@ucdconnect.ie.

WHERE TO START ON YOUR POLLINATOR-BIODIVERSITY JOURNEY

- START with the Checklist of actions on [Page 34 Businesses: actions to help pollinators](#).
- Not sure what biodiversity is on your site? Run a report with [Biodiversity Maps](#).
- Check out which business neighbours are delivering [Actions for Pollinators](#).
- Review your Local Biodiversity Action Plan here [Action for Biodiversity](#) (e.g. Local BAPs) and speak to your local [Biodiversity Officer](#) about your ideas.
- Nominate a Biodiversity Champions and create a Green Team. Invite them to sign up to the [AIPP business supporters monthly newsletter](#).
- [How to Plan for Pollinators in Q3](#).
- [Setting a budget for 2026 - Plan for Pollinators](#).

POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

- **Planting & Maintenance:** [Top Ten Guide](#), [Pollinator-friendly planting code](#), [Planting/Management on New Construction Developments](#) with Cluid (incl. SUDs).
- [Native hedgerows](#), [Nesting habitat](#), [Orchards](#).
- [Reduced mowing/ meadows](#) and verges (and lift the cuttings!).
- [Solar Farms](#), [Wind Farms](#), [Healthcare sites](#).

POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY CONSIDERATIONS

Why your business should consider an:

- [ALTERNATIVE action to sowing a wildflower seed mix after earthworks - Page 10](#) - choose a fine-leaved grass mix and then reduced-mowing and lift the cuttings.
- [ALTERNATIVE action to honeybee hives](#).
- [ALTERNATIVE action to sowing/gifting wildflower seed mixes](#). Think carefully by reading [Dr Noeleen Smyth's article on the issues with wildflower seed mixes](#).
- ALTERNATIVE employee/client gifts such as a [Bumblebee poster](#), [herb packets](#) (Page 12), [sunflower seeds](#) (Page 27), or [bulbs](#) (Page 11), or [choose from the TOP TEN guide of pollinator-friendly plants for different situations](#).

POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY IDEAS

- [Create *thematic* places for pollinators - sensory, herb, rain or moon garden/planter as part of a biodiversity walking trail?](#)
- [Raise awareness in your value chain](#) including [Client engagement for pollinators](#).
- Identify AIPP pollinator-friendly [procurement \(tendering/specifying\) and sponsorship](#).
- Score how [pollinator-friendly your car park](#) is (Page 31).
- Develop an [ecological corridor](#) with business neighbours in your [business/technology park](#).
- **Geographic-based local actions:** [Large Carder Bee - coastal areas across the island](#), [Shrill Carder Bee - Roscommon, South Galway or The Burren](#), [Great Yellow Bumblebee - Mullet Peninsula/ Belmullet, Co. Mayo](#).

TRACK - MEASURE - MONITOR: MAP EARLY, MAP OFTEN

- Engage your [value chain with AIPP evidence-based actions](#) and set simple SMART targets.
- [Score your business site](#) (Checklist Page 34-35) on pollinator-friendly actions.
- Add pollinator-biodiversity actions to [Actions for Pollinators \(GIS\)](#).
- Identify which biodiversity is on or 'adjacent' to your site via [Biodiversity Maps](#).
- [Track and measure what's happening to pollinators on your site](#) in a scientifically robust manner e.g., Friday FIT Counts (easy level, via App) and Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme (intermediate level).
- Map, track and manage invasive species via www.invasives.ie

- Healthy meadow indicators: [Track/record rare bee orchids on your site](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Communicate what you are doing** by aligning with the [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Key Campaigns and Messages 2025](#) and connect with the APP through Twitter/X [@PollinatorPlan](#) and Instagram [@allirelandpollinatorplan](#)

Invite your Green Team, Biodiversity/Sustainability Champions and colleagues to sign up to the AIPP newsletter



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