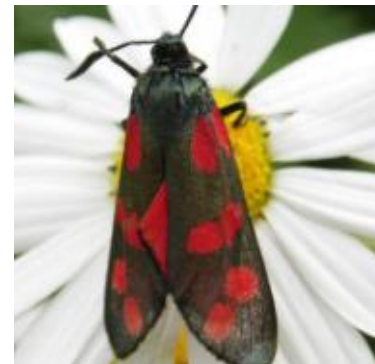


# All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

*Bringing Stakeholders Together*



[www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)



Dr Úna FitzPatrick  
Chief Scientific Officer, National Biodiversity Data Centre  
Chair & Project Manager, All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

# BIODIVERSITY LOSS IS A HUGE PROBLEM



Ireland has ~31,500 species living within 117 habitats

- Of those habitats assessed only **15%** are in a good state
- Of those species assessed **17%** are threatened with extinction from Ireland



*Decided to use pollinators as a vehicle to sell the biodiversity message to wide audiences*



- ✓ Pollinators are an element of biodiversity that people understand & relate to
- ✓ Can be communicated as a clean & simple message
- ✓ Changes can be easily monitored
- ✓ Protecting pollinators has knock-on benefits for biodiversity generally

# The plight of pollinators is typical of many components of our biodiversity

Ireland has **102** bee species

Honey bee



Bumblebees



Solitary bees



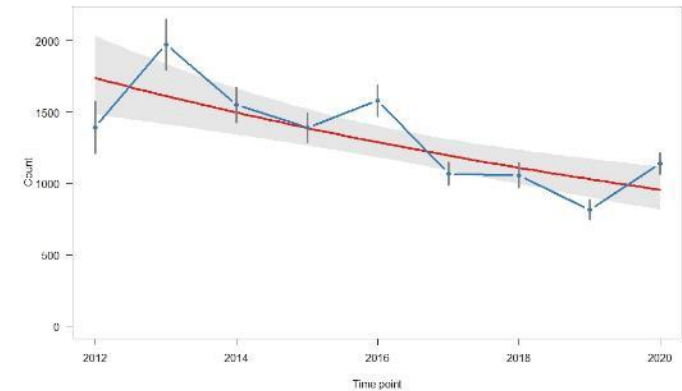
**WILD POLLINATORS**



One third of our 101 wild  
bee species are threatened  
with extinction from the  
island of Ireland



## Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme



Abundance of common  
bumblebees has declined since  
we started measuring in 2012

# If there is a problem, what do you do?

1. Decide if it's important
2. Critically assess the problem and how serious it is
3. Identify the causes
4. Collectively agree a positive way to address the problem
5. Identify **evidence-based actions** to help
6. Communicate these properly
7. Develop a partnership driven approach where possible
8. Track progress – is it working?



15-member Steering Group oversees the implementation which is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre

**All-Ireland  
Pollinator Plan  
2015-2020**

Project budget:  
€15,000/year

**Bottom-up approach**

**Developed without funding**

**Voluntary**

**81 actions**

ISSN 2009-6844  
www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan



Juanita Browne

**ALL-IRELAND  
POLLINATOR PLAN  
— 2021-2025 —**

Project budget:  
€25,000/year

**Supported by government**

**Voluntary**

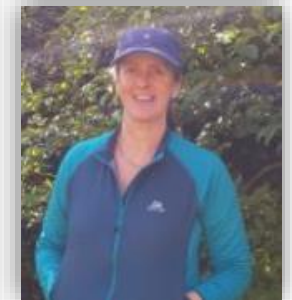
**186 actions**

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

National Biodiversity Data Centre  
A Heritage Council Programme  
www.pollinators.ie



Kate Chandler



Ruth Wilson



Sarah Kelly

# ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN IMPACT TO DATE: 2015-

2015-2020: 81 actions  
delivered



100% of Councils have become partners and are taking actions on public land



Parks have become pollinator friendly through Green Flag award

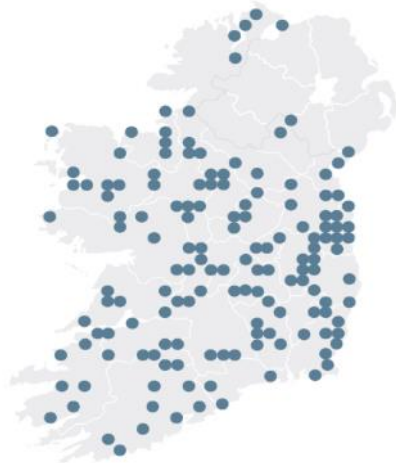


# ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN IMPACT TO DATE: 2015-

200+ **local communities** have become pollinator friendly through a special pollinator award



Local Authority  
Heritage Officer Programme



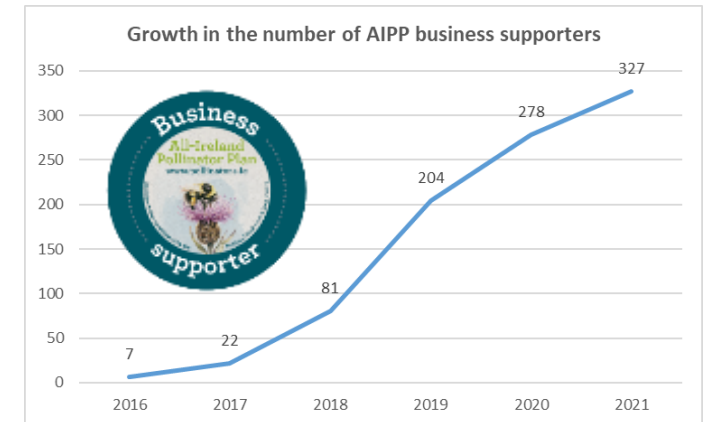
Research project (2019-2023) has created an evidence-based pollinator-score for **farms**



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Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine



**400+ business**  
supporters





# ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN IMPACT TO DATE: 2015-

**Schools** have become  
pollinator friendly

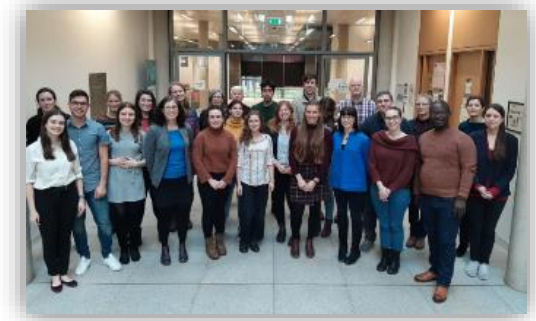


**More people are  
engaging with nature**



Number of people  
recording wild bees  
increased by **300%**

Irish Pollinator  
**Research** Network  
established 2017



**EIGHT** pollinator PhDs have  
been completed by students  
who are part of the network  
in 2023

Regarded as a **success story internationally**

# All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

*Ten lessons learned so far*





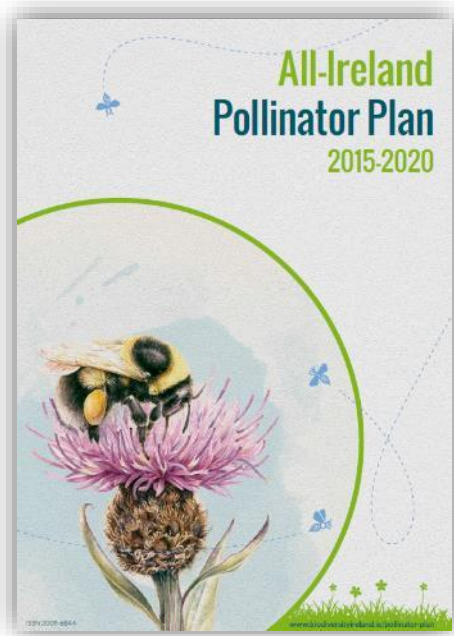
# HOW CAN WE PROTECT POLLINATORS IN IRELAND?



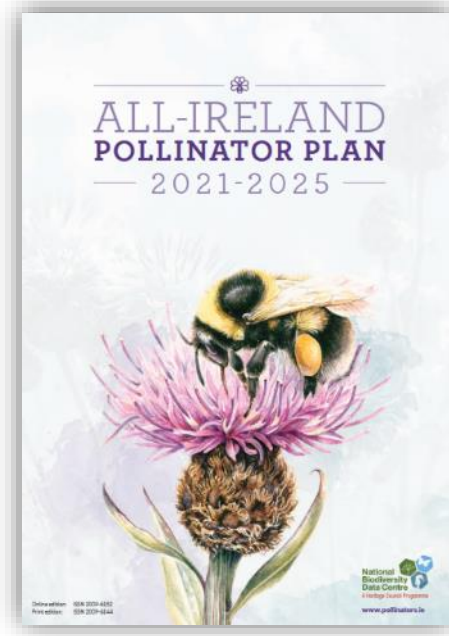
- ✓ Need interconnected networks of good quality semi-natural habitats
- ✓ Need farmland to be managed in a way that allows nature to coexist with the farming business
- ✓ Need rest of the landscape to be managed in a way that is biodiversity friendly

# 1. Collectively agree a realistic framework

- ✓ All-Ireland
- ✓ Cross-sectoral Steering Group
- ✓ Development involved public consultation



✓ **81** actions



✓ **186** actions

- Objective 1:** Making farmland pollinator friendly
- Objective 2:** Making public land pollinator friendly
- Objective 3:** Making private land pollinator friendly
- Objective 4:** All-Ireland Honeybee Strategy
- Objective 5:** Conserving rare pollinators
- Objective 6:** Strategic coordination of the Plan

## 2. Plan your core message carefully – it should be clean and simple



If you want to help implement the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan it is important to think about how your site can provide

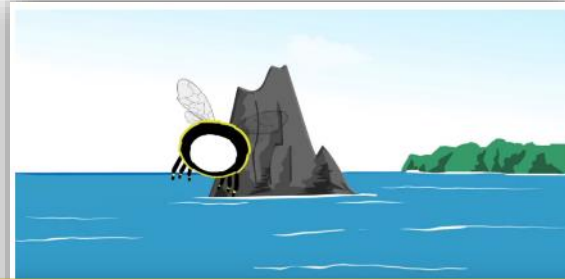
**food, shelter & safety**

✓ In doing this you start to help protect biodiversity generally



© Steven Falk

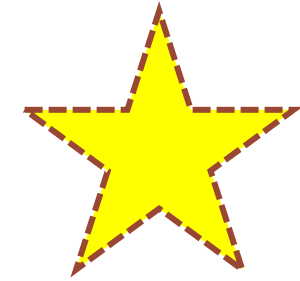
### 3. Messaging should be positive, constructive & celebrate the biodiversity we have



## *Connecting and caring*



# 4. Solutions should be evidence-based and carefully tailored to the target audience



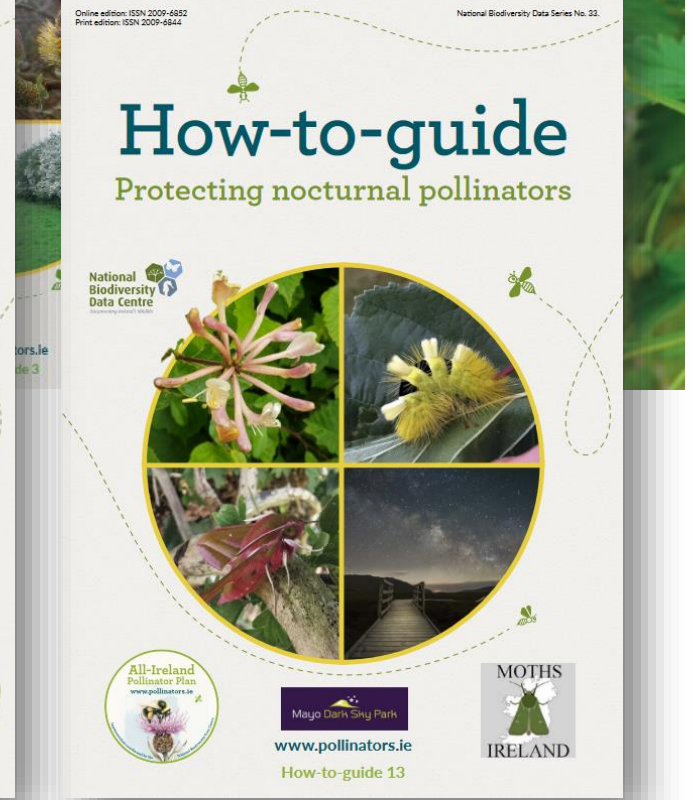
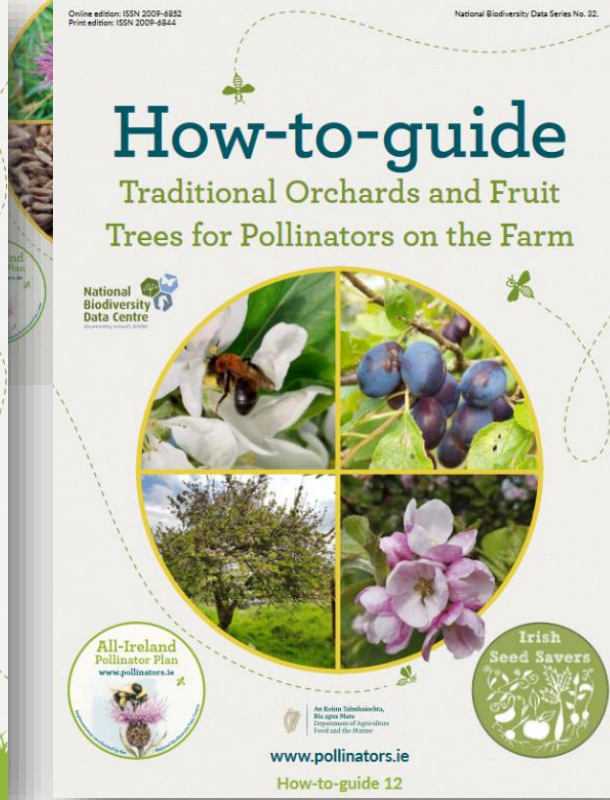
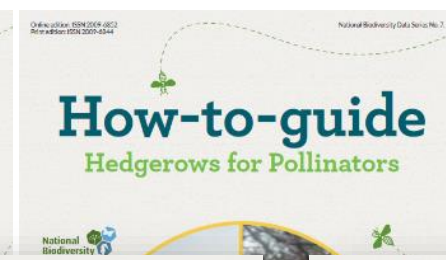
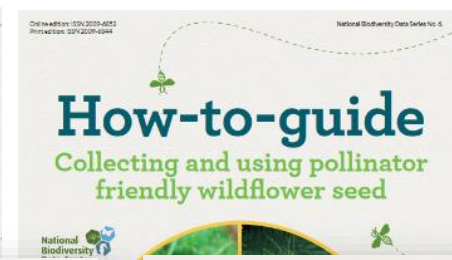
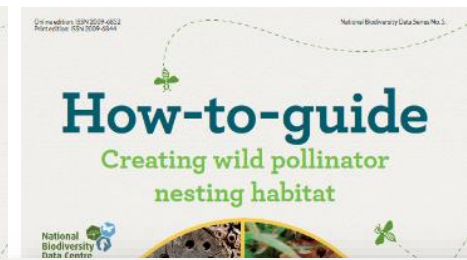
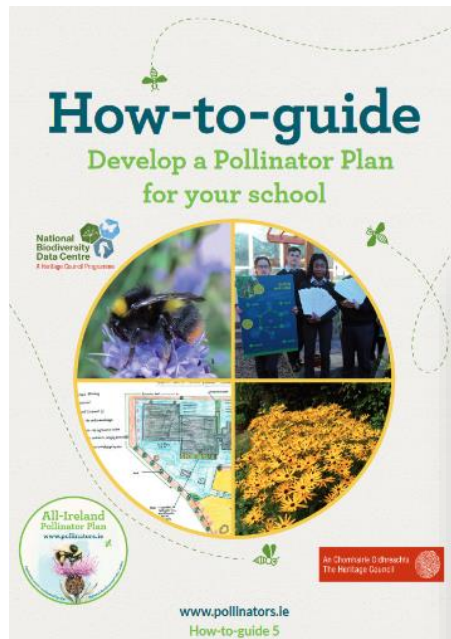
- ✓ Actions are all evidence-based
- ✓ Relevant sectors feed into development
- ✓ Communication is tailored each time

- ✓ Lots of options
- ✓ Positive - all actions are pragmatic & low cost
- ✓ **Free and easily accessible**

[www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)



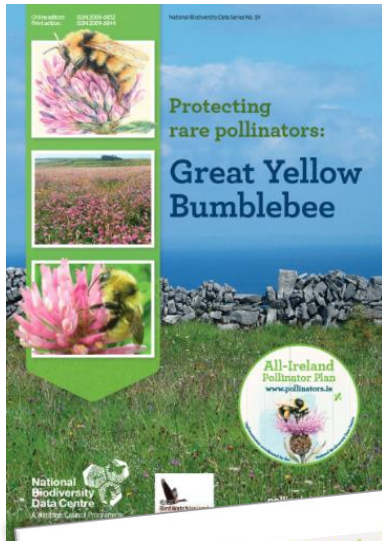
# How-to-guide series



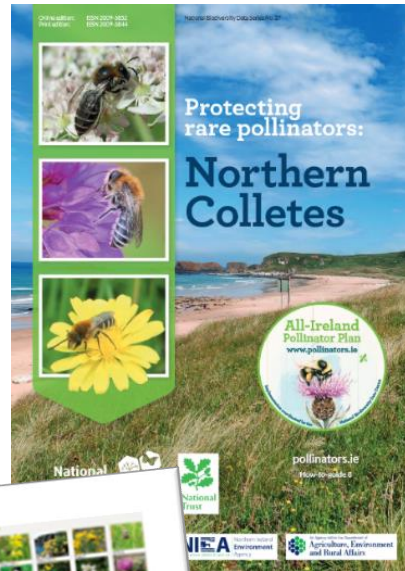


# Series on rare & threatened species

2019



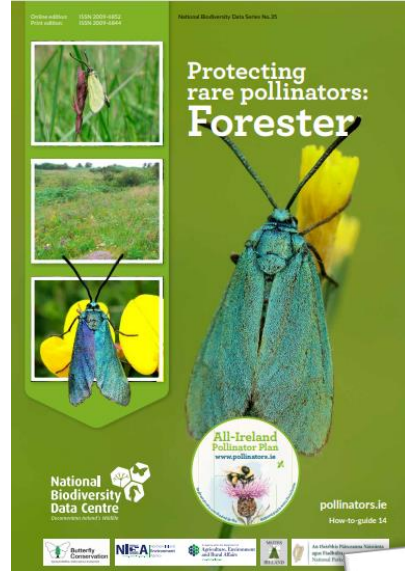
2022



2022



2024



2024



# 5. Information has to be easily accessible – free and using appropriate channels

## [www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'Partners', 'Record Pollinators', 'Ideas Hub', 'Newsletters', 'Latest News', 'Media', 'Videos', 'Resources', and 'World Bee Day'. Below this is a main heading 'All-Ireland Pollinator Plan' followed by a paragraph explaining the plan's purpose. A grid of 16 thumbnail images represents various categories: 'NEW: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025', 'Progress: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020', 'Farmland', 'Councils', 'Businesses', 'Communities', 'Sports Clubs', 'Transport Corridors', 'Schools & Campuses', 'Gardens', 'Site-specific guidelines', 'Helping endangered pollinators', 'Faith Communities', 'National Initiative Toolkit', and 'Pollinator Research'. On the right side, there are three green call-to-action buttons: 'Add your actions to our map', 'Flower-Insect Timed (FIT) Count', and 'Pledge your garden for pollinators'. Below these is a section titled 'The Buzz' with three news items: 'May Pollinator Plan newsletter', 'Making Wind Farms pollinator friendly', and 'New All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 launches'. At the bottom, there is a 'NEW: Free online interactive course' section.



## 6. Work together as much as possible

*Trying to create a societal shift in how we manage the landscape*




**Use existing networks/partnerships to encourage implementation and roll out**



# 7. Continuously exchange knowledge and learn from each other

*Be open to evolving, adapting and learning*

- ✓ Monthly newsletter
- ✓ Social media
- ✓ Knowledge exchange events
- ✓ Regular knowledge exchange blogs



Subscribe to our mailing list

Email Address

General Data Protection Regulation Permissions

The National Biodiversity Data Centre will use the information you provide on this form to keep in touch with you and to provide you with relevant updates. Please tick the box if you consent for us to contact you in this manner

Email

**Top Tweet** earned 21.8K impressions

Still deciding on your resolutions for 2019? Why not help our endangered pollinating insects by taking these simple steps. For more, see [pollinators.ie](http://pollinators.ie)

#AllIrelandPollinatorPlan  
[pic.twitter.com/rbKevQri6H](https://twitter.com/rbKevQri6H)



- 1 Let Dandelions bloom
- 2 Reduce mowing
- 3 Pollinator friendly bulbs
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7 Bare soil for nesting
- 8 Put up signage
- 9 Junior Pollinator Plan

**Blog**

**Hoverflies at home – getting to know your garden residents**  
12th Nov 2021

**Creating a lawn spiral for pollinators**  
12th May 2021

**Creating a Pollinator Corridor in Ballincollig**  
28th May 2021

**Spreading seeds of doubt – fake 'wildflower' mixes**  
12th April 2021

**Protecting rare pollinators: Helping the Large Carder Bee in your local community**



National Biodiversity Data Centre  
sustainable skeries  
pollinators.ie

**The Large Carder Bee needs suitable nesting sites to flourish**



- 1 Learn to identify
- 2 Identify nesting sites
- 3 Identify any existing areas
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

# Resources were always intended to be living documents

## 2024 updates: Local Communities, Businesses



### Self-assessment tool to:

- ✓ Understand how important one action is compared to another
- ✓ Annually track progress
- ✓ Have a 'pollinator-friendly' threshold to aim for

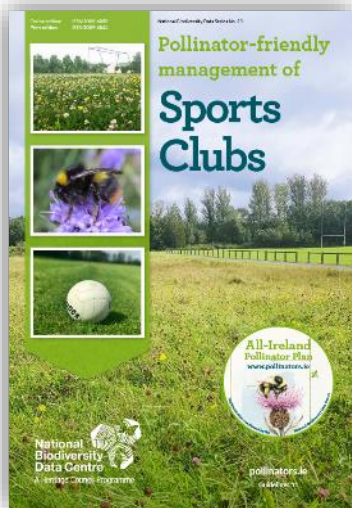
ACTIONS	Maximum score	Yearly score
<b>A: Identify and protect existing areas that are good for pollinators</b>	15	
1: Protect existing sources of food and shelter		
Create a map showing existing areas that are already good for pollinators and biodiversity e.g. native flowering trees, hedgerows, and wild areas.	2	
Have a plan to protect these existing areas for biodiversity.	5	
Find out which pollinators have already been spotted in your local area using Biodiversity Maps. If you have rare species e.g., Large Carder Bee, follow the Pollinator Plan's specific guidelines for protecting these species.	3	
Have an ecologist conduct a biodiversity survey in your local area and provide tailored advice for managing it.	5	
<b>B: Reduce mowing of grassy areas</b>	20	

2: Create a long-flowering m			
Manage at least one long-flor across more than one locatio			
3: Create a short-flowerin g			
Manage at least one quarter meadows.			
4: Let the Dandelions Bloom			
Manage at least half of all gr bloom in spring - first grass c flowered.			
<b>C: Pollinator-friendly plantin</b>			
<b>Native planting:</b>			
5: Maintain or plant a native			
Manage an existing or new n			
6: Plant native pollinator-fri			
Maintain or plant native local (1 point per 10 trees/shrubs)			
<b>Ornamental planting:</b>			
7: Plant an orchard of flower			
Create at least two orchards			
8: Include po			
baskets			
Mix pollinato			
baskets.			
9: Plant polli			
Ensure at lea			
10: Plant orn			
Ensure at lea			
and planted in appropriate lo			
<b>11: Plant pollinator-friendly perennials</b>			
Create at least three beds of pollinator-friendly perennials, each at least 4m².	3		
<b>D: Provide wild pollinator nesting habitat</b>	5		
<b>12: Provide nesting habitat for bumblebees</b>			
Area of long grass left as nesting sites for bumblebees and other insects (1 point per 10m2)	2		
<b>13: Provide nesting habitat for mining solitary bees</b>			
Manage at least 10 bare areas of soil, each with an area of at least 50cm².	2		
<b>14: Provide nesting habitat for cavity-nesting solitary bees</b>			
Drill holes in untreated wooden blocks or put small bee hotels in appropriate locations close to food sources			
<b>E: Reduce or eliminate</b>			
f			
2: Avoided.	2		
pollinators in your local area	10		
<b>20: Promote the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan resources in your community.</b>	1		
<b>19: Run one biodiversity event or engagement project in your community each year.</b>	2		
<b>20: Work with the local authority and other groups to connect areas of suitable habitat – identify potential ecological corridors.</b>	5		
<b>21: Put up signage.</b>	2		
<b>G: Tracking progress and receiving recognition</b>	10		
<b>22: Log your 'Actions for Pollinators' on the online mapping system</b>	5		
<b>23: Submit annual Flower-Insect-Timed (FIT) Counts</b>	2		
<b>24: Take part in the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme</b>	3		
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>		

Scoring system to assess how pollinator friendly (out of 100)

## 8. Try to communicate in the best way possible

- ✓ Peer-to-peer, where possible
- ✓ Try to communicate **active messages** – lots of different ways to help
- ✓ Try to deliberately reach **new audiences**



# Need biodiversity actions, not token greening

*Need interconnected networks of habitats and we need to seriously look at pesticide use*

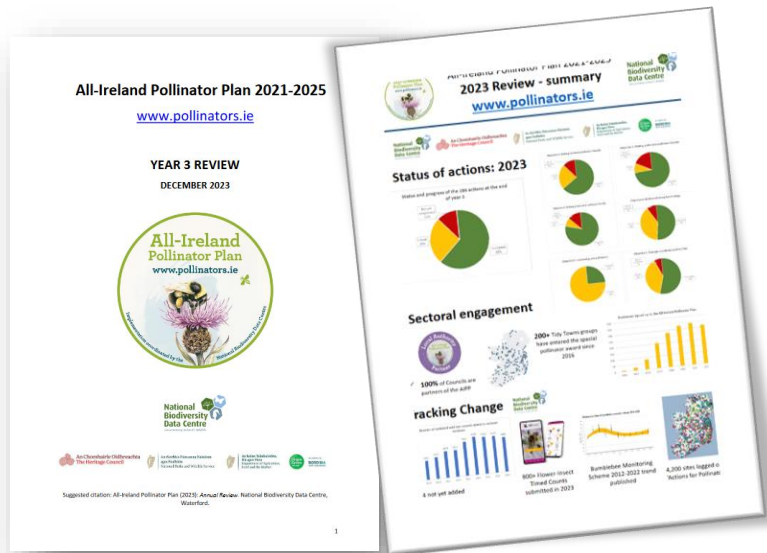
- ✓ Requires transformative change
- ✓ Need to take evidence-based actions for biodiversity, not the ones humans like best
- ✓ Need to avoid spending money where the positive impact would have been greater by doing less
- ✓ Not about gardening nature – need to get to a landscape where biodiversity can coexist with minimal human support

***The benefits to biodiversity, climate, and to human health & well-being would be huge***

## 9. Manage in an open and transparent way – give recognition to those helping

*Together we can make a difference* - no one is being asked to go it alone

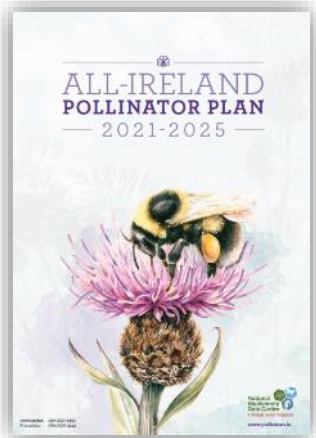
- ✓ Annual reviews
- ✓ Supporter frameworks
- ✓ Awards
- ✓ Pollinator champions





# 10. Track progress – people want to know what they are doing is working

## 1. Track implementation of the actions in the Plan



Those who have responsibility for actions have to report their progress once a year

## 2. Track creation of pollinator habitat/resources



Publicly available online mapping system:  
<https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie>

## 3. Track changes in pollinators within the landscape




National Pollinator Monitoring Schemes, launched 2022





Citizen Science initiatives: groups/individuals can track the impact of their own actions


# PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE GIS-BASED MAPPING SYSTEM ALLOWS ALL ACTIONS TO BE LOGGED

<https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie>

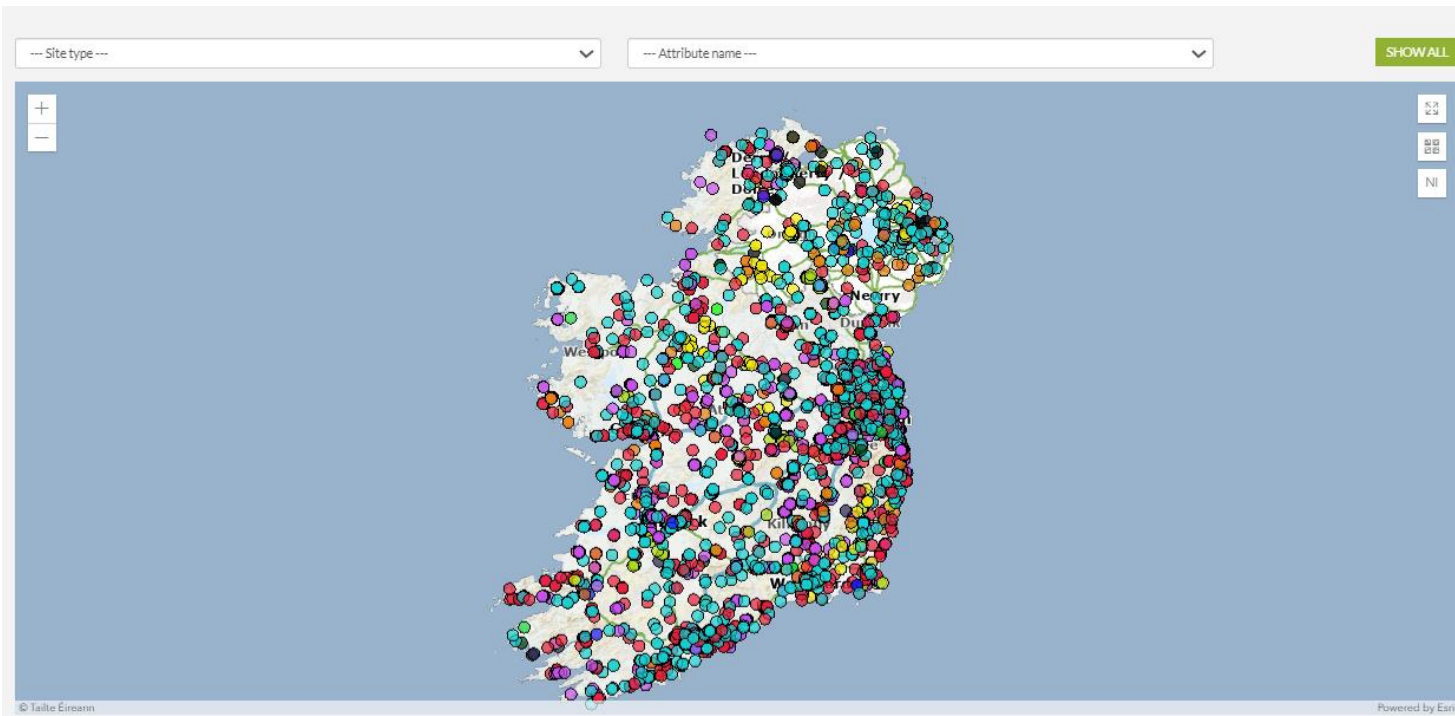
- 

1 Visit the Pollinator Plan website to find out the best actions to take
- 

2 Sign up and we will send you an account activation email
- 

3 Zoom into our map and draw around your garden, school, park or business
- 

4 Describe what you've done at your site for pollinators



--- Site type ---

--- Attribute name ---

SHOW ALL

### Site Details

Site Name	Kilmacthomas
Date	23/06/2023
Type	Local Communities (including Tidy Towns)
Area	184 m2
B. Reduce mowing	Area managed as long-flowering meadow-1 grass cut & lift/year (m2) - 15

CLOSE


### Site Details

Site Name	Carroll's Cross
Date	30/09/2022
Type	Businesses
Area	58870 m2
A. Protect existing pollinator habitats	Length of existing flowering hedgerow protected (m) - 132
B. Reduce mowing	One third of all grassy areas mown under a pollinator friendly regime-5 cut and lifts/year (m2) - 2000
C. Pollinator friendly planting	Pollinator friendly perennial bed planted (m2) - 64
D. Provide nesting habitats	Length of native hedgerow planted/managed for pollinators (m) - 630 (tree's/ditches around the wetlands)
F. Raising awareness of pollinators	Number of other pollinator friendly guidelines/leaflets distributed - EnvironmentalWeek 2022
H. Other	Works are being planned to develop wildflower areas for late 2022/early 2023.

CLOSE

### Site Details

Site Name	Maypark Garden
Date	09/02/2017
Type	Gardens
Area	258 m2
B. Reduce mowing	Area where Dandelions are allowed to bloom- first grass cut delayed till mid-April (m2) - 30 Area mown every 6 weeks to allow Clover to bloom (m2) - 30 Area managed as long-flowering meadow-1 grass cut & lift/year (m2) - 5
C. Pollinator friendly planting	SPRING-flowering pollinator friendly plants/trees/shrubs - Berberis, Broom, Crocus, SUMMER-flowering pollinator friendly plants/trees/shrubs - Catmint, Lavender, Wallflower, Laburnum, Oregano, Currants, Raspberry, Tomato, Apple, Thyme AUTUMN-flowering pollinator friendly plants/trees/shrubs - Ivy Area of earth bank or bare soil created for mining bees (m2) - 0.5
D. Provide nesting habitats	Plant stems left standing (type) - Raspberry Number of holes drilled in wood - 5
E. Reduce pesticide use	Insecticide use eliminated Herbicide use eliminated
F. Raising awareness of pollinators	Junior Pollinator Plan promoted (number of children reached) - 5
G. Tracking progress	Garden pollinator records submitted to data centre






# FARMLAND



## 5 actions for *bee-friendly* farming:

- 1 Maintain native *flowering* hedgerows
- 2 Allow wildflowers to grow around the farm
- 3 Provide nesting places for wild bees
- 4 Minimise artificial fertiliser use
- 5 Reduce pesticide inputs



<https://pollinators.ie/farmland>

Online edition: ISSN 2009-4862  
Print edition: ISSN 2009-4844  
National Biodiversity Data Series No. 7

# How-to-guide

## Hedgerows for Pollinators

National Biodiversity Data Centre

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020  
Irish Seed Savers

www.pollinators.ie  
How-to-guide 3

Online edition: ISSN 2009-4862  
Print edition: ISSN 2009-4844  
National Biodiversity Data Series No. 12

# How-to-guide

## Traditional Orchards and Fruit Trees for Pollinators on the Farm

National Biodiversity Data Centre

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020  
Irish Seed Savers

www.pollinators.ie  
How-to-guide 12

### Beneficial predators

Traditional orchards support a wide variety of organisms including predator species who prevent damage to the crop by managing pests.

To help our vital pollinating insects and other biodiversity, encourage these natural predators instead of using harmful pesticides.

**Spiders**  
Feed on: Adult, nymph and eggs of pest species

**Parasitic wasps**  
Feed on: Caterpillars, sawflies, leaf midge, aphids and ants

**Ground beetles**  
Feed on: Slugs, snails, sawfly larvae and moth caterpillars

**Earwigs**  
Feed on: A insects and moths

**Ladybirds**  
Feed on: Aphids and the larvae of other insects, particularly caterpillars

**Hoverflies**  
Larvae feed on: Aphids

**Lacewings**  
Larvae feed on: Aphids

## A Hedgerow Through the Seasons

Hedgerows are precious habitats made up of native trees, shrubs, and flowers. They form a network of wildlife corridors across our landscape, providing food and shelter for insects, birds, and mammals.

**WINTER**

Deadwood provides nesting and breeding sites for insects. Fruits and berries are a vital source of food for birds and mammals.

**SPRING**

The hedgerow bursts into life. Nectar and pollen rich plants flower in succession, feeding pollinators as they emerge from hibernation.

**SUMMER**

As the weather warms, birds use trees as song posts. Caterpillars of moths and butterflies feed on the hedgerow plants. Bats feed on the abundant insects.

Our funders:

## Food for pollinators on the farm

Pollinators need flowers to feed on from spring through to autumn

**Native trees & shrubs – allow hedgerows to flower**

Willow	Blackthorn	Hawthorn/Hawthorn	Wild rose	Crab apple
Bramble	Sedgemoor	Hollyhock	Ivy	

**Native wildflowers – allow to grow in non-farmed areas**

Campanula	Cuckoo flower	Knautia	Vetches	Corney Daisy
Sedgemoor	Meadow sweet	Broomrape	Meadow-rue	Stemmed

www.pollinators.ie

## How to plant a Hedgerow for biodiversity

Protecting Farmland Pollinators | National Biodiversity Data Centre

Good quality hedgerows provide the four essential needs of biodiversity:

- Sources of food: pollen, nectar, fruits
- Places to breed
- Places to nest and overwinter
- Corridors to travel across the landscape

**What should you plant?**

- Plant a diverse range of species, with no more than 70% of one species. Allow one tree to grow for every ten metres.
- Use native plants of Irish provenance. These are best for biodiversity, and will help stop the import and spread of pests and disease.

**Native hedgerow species**

Blackthorn	Dog Rose
Guelder Rose	Hawthorn/Whitethorn
Holly	Hazel
Honeysuckle	Spindle

The species listed above can all be regularly cut or managed in a hedgerow.

**Don't use cultivated varieties**

**Trees in a hedgerow:** the following native species can be planted to grow into a tree - Blackthorn, Hawthorn/Whitethorn, Holly, Crab Apple, Goat Willow, Grey Willow, Pendunculate Oak, Rowan, Sessile Oak and Wild Cherry.



## Pollinator-friendly farming

Welcome to this course for farmers, farm advisors and agricultural students, as part of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, implemented by th...

Free

2024: online training course for farmers, farm advisors and agricultural students

Pollinator-friendly farming

< Go to Dashboard

**Pollinator-friendly farming**

0% complete

Search by lesson title

- Making farmland pollinator friendly 0/1 ^
- Pollinator friendly farming

**Pollinator-friendly farming**

0% COMPLETE

Why do we need pollinators?

WHO ARE OUR POLLINATORS

- Bumblebees
- Solitary bees
- Hoverflies

COMPLETE & CONTINUE →

[National Biodiversity Data Centre](#)



# Protecting Farmland Pollinators



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

2019-2023



Worked with a pilot group of 40 farmers to co-develop a  
**Farmland Biodiversity Tool**

Evidence-based whole-farm scoring system that  
identifies how pollinator friendly the farm is

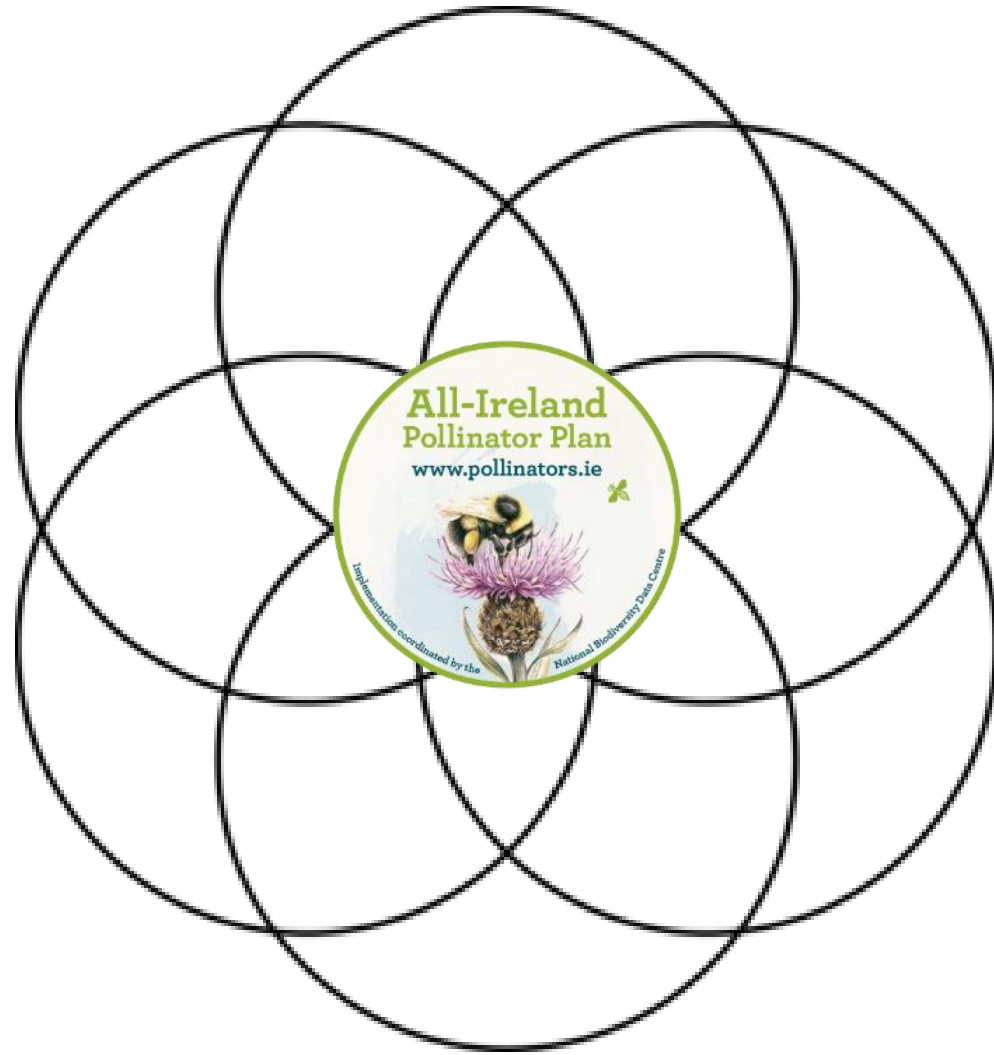




### Score against actions



ACTION	POINTS
Hedgerows	25
Meadows & flowering pastures	20
Reductions in pesticide use	20
Non-farmed areas	10
Native trees	5
Margins/buffer strips	10
Wetlands habitats	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>



**Lots of small actions,  
taken together, can  
begin to solve big  
problems**

# www.pollinators.ie

Úna FitzPatrick

[ufitzpatrick@biodiversityireland.ie](mailto:ufitzpatrick@biodiversityireland.ie)

THANK YOU

