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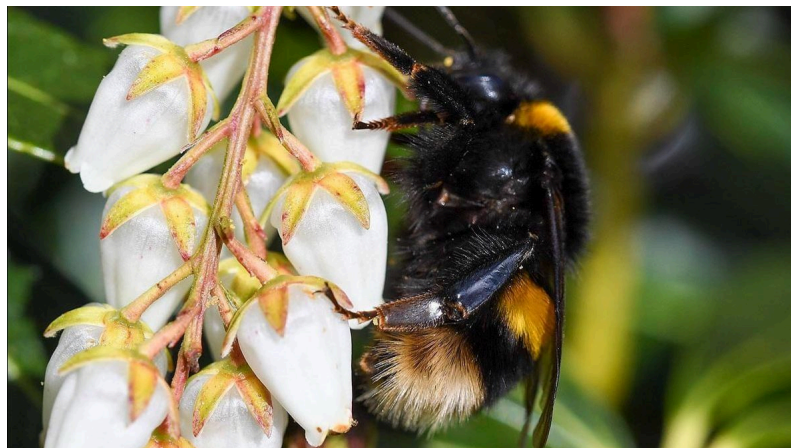
Newsletter: November 2025

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a framework bringing together different sectors across the island of Ireland to create a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive. Its implementation is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

To spot this month: keep an eye out for queen bumblebees

The normal lifecycle of most Irish bumblebees ends when the workers and males die off and the newly mated queens hibernates through the colder winter months. Occasionally, at this time of year you can still see some bumblebee queens fattening up for hibernation. If you spot any queen bumblebees that you're able to identify, it's very useful to let us know what plant it was feeding on. Last November, queens were observed feeding on Ivy and on garden plants like Mahonia, Comfrey and Hebe. Photo below is the Buff-tailed Bumblebee (Joe Curtis).

Please submit any bumblebee sightings to the National Biodiversity Data Centre.



Submit your bumblebee sightings

To do this month: plant bare root fruit trees

Bare root fruit trees are generally cheaper to buy than potted trees, and the time to buy and plant them is from November to March. Consider adding a small orchard to your garden, local community, business site or farm.

As well as containing some of our rare heritage fruit tree varieties, a small orchard can be valuable for biodiversity. They're made up of several habitats, including elements of woodland, hedgerow and meadow. This mosaic of habitats is home to a range of biodiversity, including bees, butterflies, birds, bats, mosses, beetles, fungi and lichen. Windfallen fruit is also a vital source of food in autumn and winter for a whole range of wildlife. Species-rich grassland beneath the trees can be a haven for pollinators and biodiversity, especially if they contain the native, naturally occurring wildflowers.

pollen, essential for the survival of these important insects.



Download our guide on Traditional Orchards and Fruit Trees for Pollinators

Tidy Towns Pollinator Award 2025

The winners of the 2025 Tidy Towns Pollinator Award have been announced. The Pollinator Award has run since 2016 as a Special Award in the annual Supervalu Tidy Towns awards. It is administrated by the local authority Heritage and Biodiversity Officer network and the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The aim of the award is to encourage and reward pollinator-friendly actions by Tidy Towns groups in line with the recommendations of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. Each winner is awarded a prize of €1,000.

Baile Slachtmhar Bhéal an Mhuirthead/ Belmullet Tidy Towns were the overall winners this year. Inagh Tidy Towns were awarded 'best newcomer', and regional awards were given to Balbriggan Tidy Towns, Crinkill Tidy Villages, Ardmore Tidy Towns, Castlegregory Tidy Towns and Cavan Tidy Towns.

The quality of applications this year was so high that ten further Tidy Towns were highly commended for their work for pollinators. Huge congratulations to all the winners and highly commended towns.



Orchids in the short-flowering meadow at Achadh Mara on World Bee Day, 20 May 2025 (Belmullet Tidy Towns)

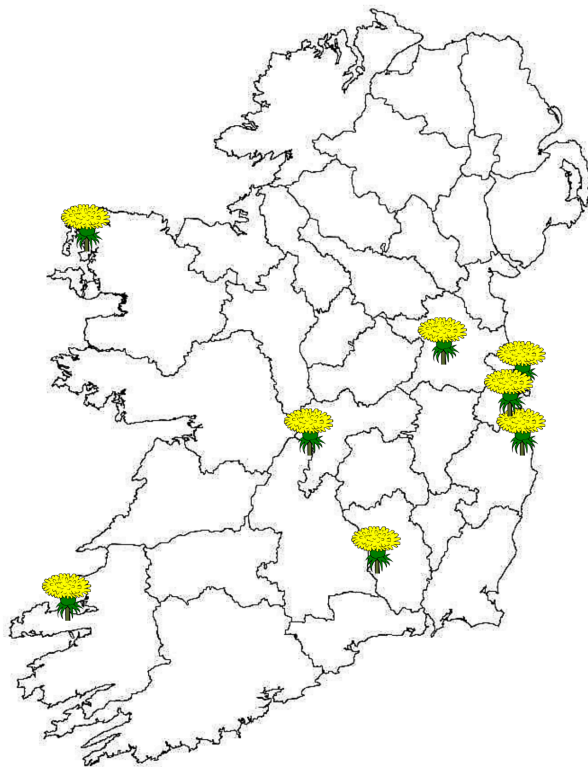
[Read more](#)

New blog: Pesticide-free Towns

Our latest blog celebrates communities that have decided to go pesticide-free to protect pollinators and human health.

annual pollinator awards, including the Tidy Towns Pollinator Award which is administered by the Local Authority Heritage and Biodiversity Officer network and the National Biodiversity Data Centre. This award is given to groups who have taken action for pollinators in line with our recommendations, including reducing and eliminating pesticides.

Find out about some of the Tidy Towns groups who have scored full marks for eliminating pesticides in recent years, and how they managed to achieve it.



[Read more](#)

Free Courses on the Biodiversity Learning Platform

As things quieten down for winter, and you are missing seeing pollinators in real life, don't forget that we have lots of pollinator online courses on the National Biodiversity Data Centre Learning Platform. All courses are free and can be completed at your leisure. It's a good way to plan what actions you might take in 2026, or to begin learning about species identification.



How to identify and record Ireland's social wasps

Learn how to identify Ireland's social wasps, as well where to find them and how to record them.

Free



Managing Communities for Pollinators

This course is a training module on how to manage local communities for pollinators, with evidence-based guidelines from the All-Ireland...

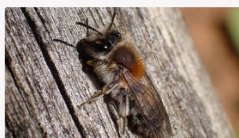
Free



Farmland Pollinator Friendly Hedgerows

This course is a training module for farmers, farm advisors and agricultural students about how to make hedgerows more pollinator and...

Free



How to identify and record Ireland's mining bees (Andrena)

In this course you will learn how to identify and record Ireland's mining bees.

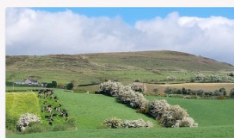
Free



Managing School Grounds for Biodiversity

A training module on how to manage school grounds for biodiversity.

Free



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

Biodiversity Learning Platform

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