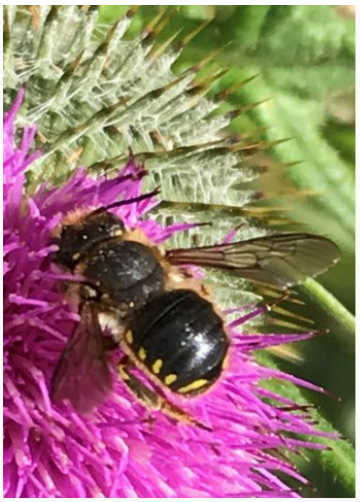
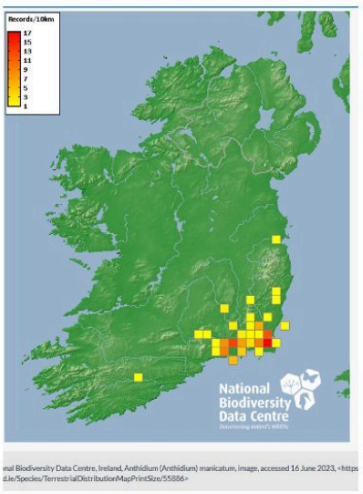
Newsletter: July 2026

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 the Red-tailed Bumblebee

This large solitary bee is very distinctive and can be spotted in gardens, especially in the South-East. It was first recorded in Ireland in 2015. Both males and females have a pattern of yellow markings down the sides of the abdomen, head and legs.





Submit your solitary bee sightings

To do this month: make sure your annual bedding plants include some pollinator-friendly options

At this time of year, the shops are full of traditional annual bedding (Begonia, Petunia, Geranium). Just bear in mind, that while these plants are very colourful, they are not good sources of pollen and nectar for bees and other insects. The good news is that there are a few options (below) that you can mix in that are excellent sources of food for pollinators.

Top 10 Pollinator-friendly Plants for Different Situations

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2026-2030 launches 9th July

The new All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2026-2030) will launch on Thursday 9th July.

Building on the strong foundations of the first two phases (2015-2020 and 2021-2025), the new Pollinator Plan is the most ambitious yet, with even bigger plans to transform the landscape for pollinating insects.

We cannot wait to share the new All-Ireland Pollinator Plan with you. In the meantime, revisit the highlights of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 in our celebratory video (link below).

Celebrating the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025

New resource for Community Gardens

Earlier this month, we were thrilled to release a new resource ‘How to Manage Community Gardens for Pollinators‘.

This booklet, developed in collaboration with Community Gardens Ireland, provides guidance on how these important community spaces can support pollinating insects. It was launched on Saturday 20th June at an event in Greystones and Kilcoole Community Garden, Co. Wicklow.

Pollinators like bees, hoverflies and moths play an essential role in the life of community gardens. They ensure many food plants produce a healthy harvest by transferring pollen between flowers. Apples, strawberries, tomatoes and pumpkins are just some of the foods we enjoy thanks to pollinators.

The new booklet includes advice on pollinator-friendly actions to suit community gardens of all sizes, including mowing less in grassy areas to encourage wildflowers to grow naturally, letting native trees and hedgerows bloom, and providing nesting habitat in the form of bare earth banks for solitary bees. It also includes lists of herbs, fruit and vegetable plants which rely on insect pollinators, and which can help feed hungry bees as well as humans. It will also encourage other beautiful insects like butterflies to visit.

Managing community gardens for pollinators ensures a bountiful harvest of locally grown food, thriving biodiversity, and flourishing spaces where humans can connect with nature and one another.

A huge thank you to Community Gardens Ireland for collaborating with us on the booklet, and to Greystones & Kilcoole Community Garden for hosting the launch.

Find out more, and download the free booklet on the link below.

New booklet: Community gardens for pollinators

New guest blog: Low-mow lawns in June

Reducing mowing, even to just once a month, can help native wildflowers and beneficial grasses grow naturally, providing pollinators with food and shelter. In June, many meadow areas are at their peak, and pollinators are busy laying their eggs and foraging for nectar and pollen.

In this guest blog, we invited gardeners to share their low-mow lawn stories and tell us what they noticed popping up in June.

Read the blog: Low-mow lawns in June

Wild Bee Festival: 22nd - 23rd August, Waterford

We are delighted to announce the 2026 Wild Bee Festival will take place on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd August at the Waterford Education Support Centre.

The Wild Bee Festival is an annual event coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, aiming to raise awareness of Ireland's pollinators and how to help them in local communities. This year's festival is organised in collaboration with the B Corridor group in Waterford.

Get ready for a weekend of free talks, walks and workshops about wild bees and how we can help them in our communities. More details of the programme will be shared very soon.

Wild Bee Festival homepage

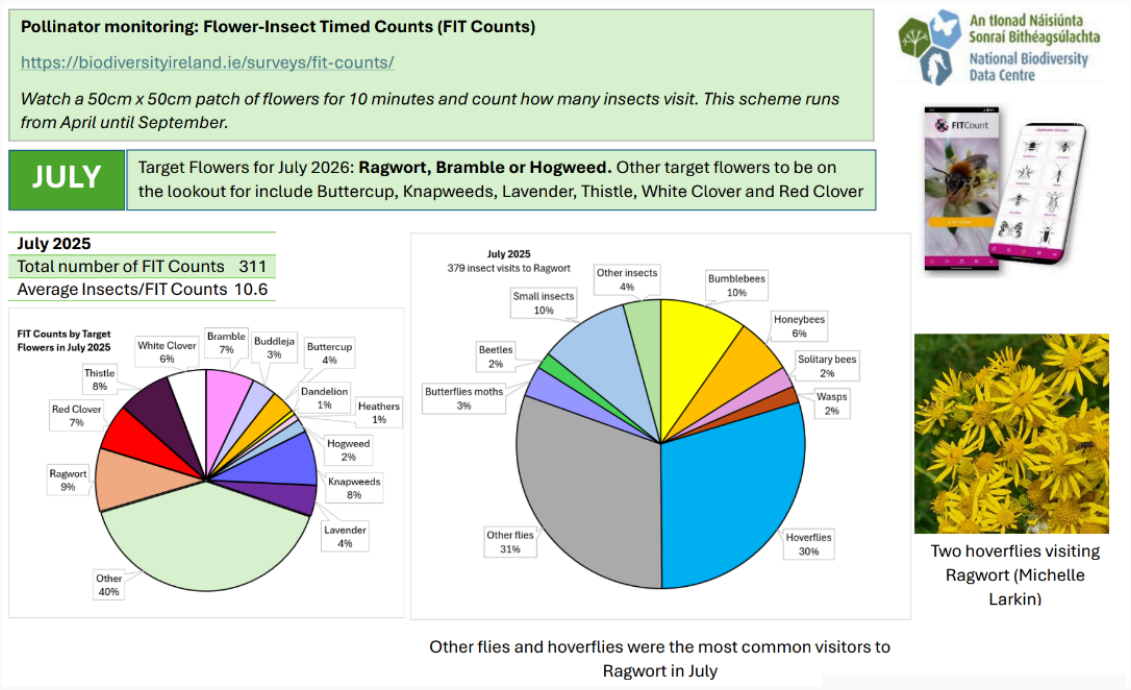
Can you help by carrying out a Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count)?

FIT Counts are an important way that you can help us monitor pollinators. They are a quick and easy survey that involves watching a 50cm x 50cm patch of flowers for 10 minutes and count how many insects visit. Anyone can get involved, and 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 July, it's especially useful to carry out FIT Counts on Bramble, Hogweed or Ragwort.

In 2025, 1,323 validated FIT Counts were submitted by 235 different volunteers. The average number of insects per FIT Count was 9. The most common insect group recorded were other flies followed by hoverflies then bumblebees. Gardens were the most common habitat FIT Counts were carried out in last year. Why not try one where you are to see how your site compares?

Visit the link below to download the 2025 newsletter and see the full results of the scheme last year. An app is available for Ireland that allows you to carry out a FIT Count and upload the results in one go.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre also runs a Garden Butterfly Monitoring Scheme. You can help by counting the number of butterflies visiting your garden. Find out more by visiting the link below.



Flower-Insect-Timed Count Homepage

Garden Butterfly Monitoring Scheme

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