

## THE ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN

Pollinators are important to farmers who grow pollinator-dependent crops and to those of us who want to grow our own fruits and vegetables.

One third of our 98 bee species are threatened with extinction from the island of Ireland. If we want them to be here to pollinate crops and wild plants for future generations, we need to manage the landscape in a more pollinator-friendly way and create a network of diverse and flower-rich habitats.

In the past 50 years, advances in farming have reduced the amount of flowers and it is inevitable that we now have fewer bees. The Pollinator Plan is not about 'returning to days of old' or reversing progress, but about working out new ways to provide enough food for our pollinators in the modern farmed landscape.



## MORE INFORMATION

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan  
[www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)

National Biodiversity Data Centre  
[www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie)

National Parks and Wildlife Service  
[www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)



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Enniskeane, Co. Cork t (023) 884 7866

### Opening Hours:

Monday - Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm.  
Saturday 9am - 5pm.



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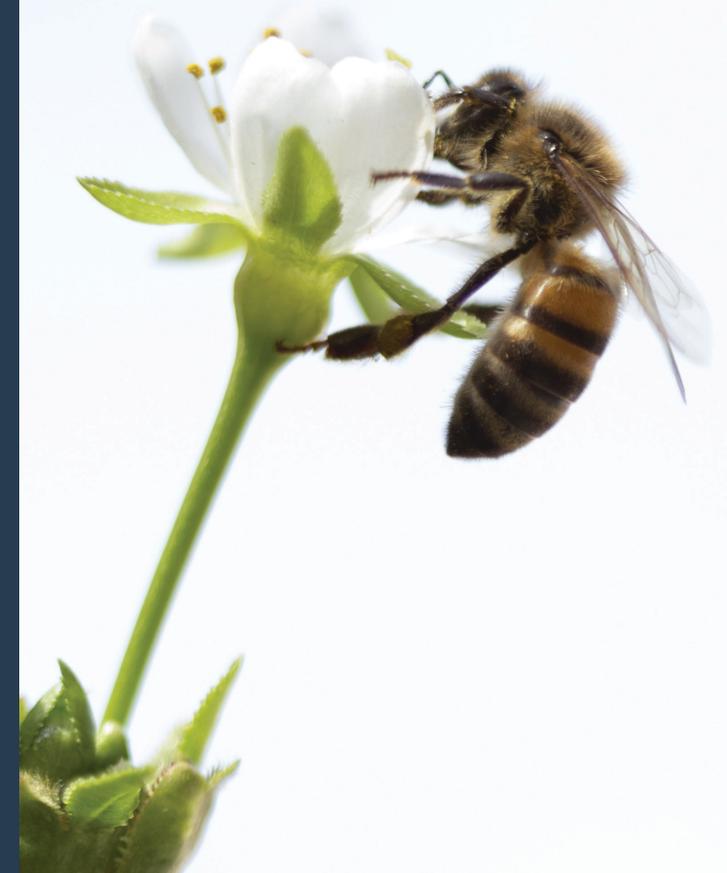


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# BENEFITS TO FARMERS OF SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY

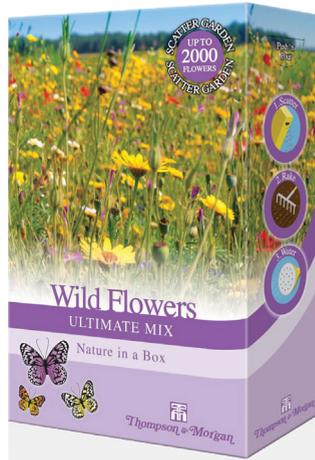


## 1. MAINTAIN NATIVE FLOWERING HEDGEROWS

How: Plant and/or maintain native hedging such as Hawthorn, Blackthorn etc. Bandon Co-op Horticulturalists can advise on varieties available.

## 2. ALLOW WILDFLOWERS TO GROW AROUND THE FARM

How: Consider planting some wildflower patches with Wildflower Seed Boxes (€9.99)



## 3. PROVIDE NESTING PLACES FOR WILD BEES

How: Allow for plenty of shelter and consider placing some nesting boxes around your farm.

## 4. MINIMISE ARTIFICIAL FERTILISER USE

How: The main area where farmers can achieve this is incorporating clover into the grass sward as clover is a legume and can fix nitrogen therefore reducing the need for chemical nitrogen. This has become mandatory in 2020 for farmers who are in derogation.

There are 2 ways farmers can incorporate clover, the first is to include clover in your grass seed mixture when you are reseeding. The second option is to over sow clover seed into an established grass sward. Both these products are sold at Bandon Co-op. Ask in store for more information.



## 5. REDUCE PESTICIDE INPUTS

How: Avoid spraying non-farmed areas where wildflowers are or could grow, keep distance from hedgerows when spraying, pull weeds by hand, only using sprays when necessary. Bandon Co-op staff can advise farmers on best practice and use of sprays that are currently available.

## TAKING ACTIONS TO SUPPORT BEES ON YOUR FARM WILL BENEFIT FARMERS BY:

- Reinforcing Ireland's vital green image in premium markets.
- Contributing towards Bord Bia's Sustainability Criteria, a component of their Quality Assurance schemes.
- Maximising production value via increased yields of crops.
- Saving time and money in many cases.
- Providing additional benefits such as improving natural pest control or protecting watercourses by creating pesticides/fertiliser buffer zones.
- Keeping farming options open for your children and their children's children.

In the future, pollination services may be even more important to how your land is farmed. Maintaining a healthy and sustainable farm ecosystem and ensuring your land remains in as good, or better, a natural state as when you got it.