



CIEEM Ireland

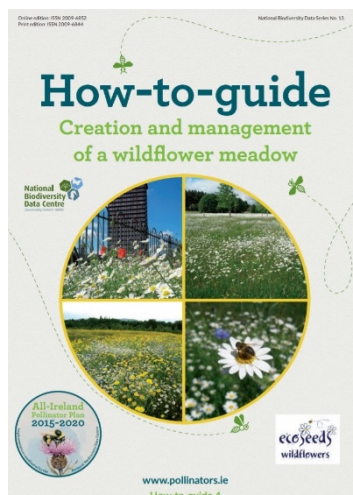
HELPING IRELAND'S POLLINATORS THRIVE WITH THE ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN

In 2015, the [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020](#) was published, providing a plan of action to reverse pollinator losses and restore populations across Ireland.

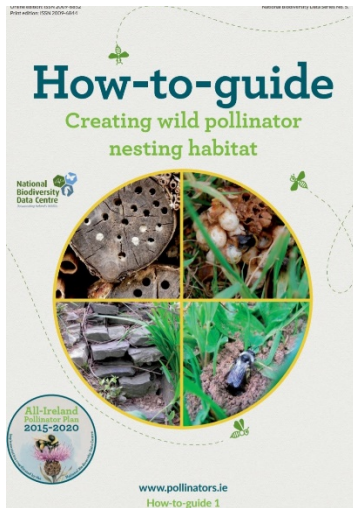
The Plan aims to begin a process of working collectively to raise awareness, deliver pollinator-friendly habitat and collect evidence. Ecologists and environmental managers play a key role in this, particularly when implementing or advising on land management and development. As such, we wanted to highlight a selection of the many resources provided by the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, to help members support action for pollinators. We will also be following this up with a webinar in the coming months, so please do keep an eye out!

The CIEEM Irish section was delighted to be a partner in the [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan](#) and, as the first plan reaches the end, we would like to congratulate everyone involved in an amazing initiative.

RESOURCES

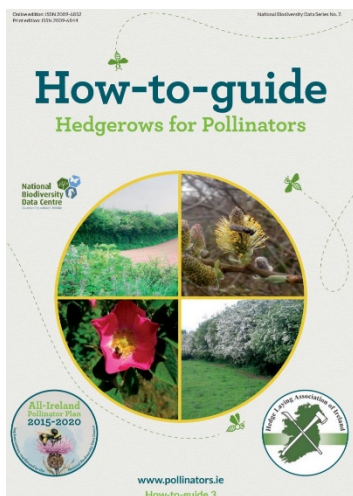


Creation and Management of a Wildflower Meadow
[This how-to guide](#) is aimed at Councils, local community groups, gardeners or businesses that want to create a wildflower meadow from scratch, i.e. using commercial seed to plant a new area.



Creating Wild Pollinator Nesting Habitat

[This guidance document](#) will tell you all you need to know to create ideal nesting habitats for the wild bee species found across Ireland!



Hedgerows for Pollinators

Good quality, diverse hedgerows provide essential needs of pollinators. [This document](#) explains what makes a good quality hedgerow for pollinators, considerations for planting new hedgerows and managing existing hedgerows.



Collecting and Using Pollinator Friendly Wildflower Seed

[This guide](#) will show you how to collect seed from native plants and save them successfully for sowing yourself. It is aimed at people who want to collect wildflower seed and use it to provide more food for bees in their garden, school, farm or local area. If you're trying to create a wildflower meadow these methods can also be used to increase the diversity of flowering plant species in place of purchasing seed mixes.

CONSIDERATIONS

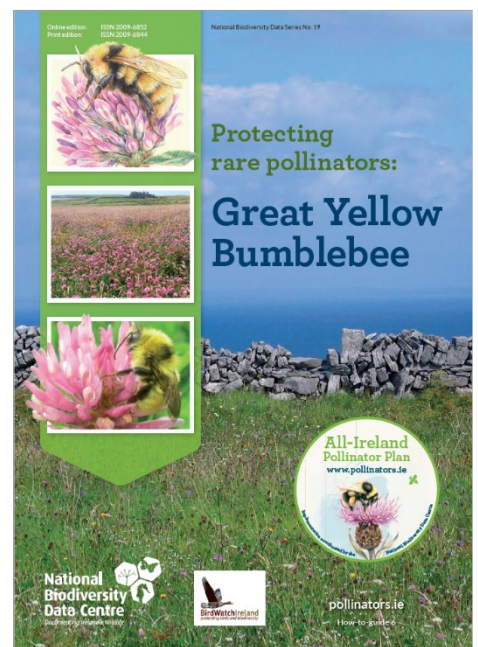
There are a few things that ecologists and environmental managers should consider when undertaking habitat creation or restoration:

- In general, ecologists are encouraged to enhance existing habitats in a natural manner by changing the management regime (e.g. reduced mowing, hay strewing) rather than starting from scratch. The creation of wildflower meadows from commercial seed should only be considered when working with soils that do not have a seed-bank (e.g. subsoil) or if the development only allows for a small area or narrow strip that cannot be left unseeded.
- Useful advice on the restoration / enhancement of existing grassland habitats can be found on the [Magnificent Meadows website](#). Also have a look at the recent Pollinators.ie article '[Debunking some myths about bees](#)'.
- When a development site has to be cleared, you can preserve the existing seed bank by asking the contractor to strip the top 10 – 20 cm of topsoil and storing it in a bund, separate from other building materials. This topsoil can then be used to surface new meadows / grasslands, without having to buy new seed.
- A range of colourful 'wildflower' mixes are available from commercial suppliers, but many are dominated by non-native species, e.g. from central Europe. These should not be confused with native wildflower mixes, which are only available from specialist suppliers. Check the species list to ensure that everything is native, and ensure that the seed has been collected in Ireland.
- The creation of a species-rich wildflower meadow takes many years, so you should ensure that the management regime can be maintained in the long-term.
- The suitability of wildflower meadow habitat for the area should be assessed in terms of sustainability, local importance, and connectivity to other habitats.

THE GREAT YELLOW BUMBLEBEE

To help protect one of Ireland's rarest pollinators, the Great Yellow Bumblebee (*Bombus distinguendus*), the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan team and the National Biodiversity Data Centre have pulled together a guidance document on what the species needs to flourish including a native plant list, how to manage land for this species and actions to maintain key populations on current sites.

The Mullet Peninsula in Co. Mayo is currently the only location on the island of Ireland where healthy populations are known to remain so we particularly encourage members working in that area to take account of this species in Ecological



Impact Assessments. Please also submit any new records of this species from outside their known range.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

BUMBLEBEE MONITORING SCHEME

As part of the Irish Pollinator Initiative, the National Biodiversity Data Centre launched a Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme in 2011. The scheme now records over 13,000 bumblebees from more than 100 sites each year. If you already know your bees, or want to work on your ID, please consider getting involved. More information is available [here](#).

CIEEM MEMBER ACTION

We are delighted that so many CIEEM members have been a part of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan's success by using it in their own work and also promoting it in Biodiversity plans across the country. Here are just a few examples:

“We are doing ecological assessments for a new development for warehousing near Dublin airport. Within the site, there is an area set-aside for wildlife enhancement and biodiversity. Measures within this area include planting of wildflower host plants for key invertebrates known to exist in the 2km grid area, and installation of sandy banks within the site to cater for solitary bees.” - **Niamh Burke CEnv MCIEEM**

“I have worked with several community groups and local authorities providing biodiversity awareness training and biodiversity actions plans for community groups across Wicklow, Wexford, Kilkenny, Kildare, Meath and Roscommon. The All Ireland Pollinator plan is an invaluable resource for both me as an ecologist and for local community groups. The most popular actions are the wildflower meadow and reduced mow wildflower lawn, tree planting for pollinators and the pollinator friendly planting schemes. Local communities are keen to know which plants are best. The pollinator plan provides lists of plants but it's important to emphasise that they need to choose plants which flower at different times of the year to provide a continuous food source. It is encouraging to see under used amenity grassland sites transformed to meadow grasslands and wildflower lawns with surprisingly species rich results in a relatively short time... When working with groups and developing their biodiversity plans with them, I encourage them to record their pollinator sites on the pollinator plan map and monitor the success of their actions by recording the pollinators that visit their sites every year. I also encourage them to take part in the bumblebee and butterfly monitoring schemes.” - **Deborah D'Arcy ACIEEM**

“JBA are currently working on a project with Clare County Council at the moment to develop a

'Biodiversity Management System' for the County Council and this involves developing procedures, a best practice manual and delivery of training on Biodiversity. Clare County Council have recently signed up as partners to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) and we've emphasised this in all materials produced. In particular, in the development of procedures, we have used guidance from Councils: Actions to Help Pollinators, referring to specific actions the council can take, e.g. altering mowing regimes and reducing pesticide use.

Clare County Council also has a indirect involvement with community groups by providing grants for maintenance of amenity areas and graveyards - we've prepared some standard text for Clare CoCo to include in grant application forms outlining the Council's commitments to the AIPP and providing links to AIPP guidance for Community Groups and Faith Communities, encouraging applicants to use the guidance and to track their actions on the AIPP website.

I regularly use the AIPP guidance and I always recommend the Pollinator Friendly Planting Code to landscape designers I work with." - **Jean Hamilton MCIEEM**

HAVE YOUR SAY

The next version of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is now being developed for 2021-30, and a public consultation process is currently open for submissions. Members are encouraged to submit comments or feedback on the first phase of the plan, as well as suggestions for the next phase, [here](#).