

10 Tips to help your entry for the Pollinator Award

1. Please fill in the proper application form completely

Some entrants do not fill in the application form but instead provide their own project descriptions. Unfortunately no matter how impressive these entries are, this makes it very difficult to judge one application against the next. Points are awarded for each question so if any are left out, you will lose marks.

2. Make sure your planting follows our

Pollinator-friendly Planting Code

There are useful plant lists at the back of our 'Local Communities' guidelines, and the longer Planting Code is available at www.pollinators.ie Daffodils and tulips produce negligible pollen and nectar so they are not beneficial in pollinator-friendly planting schemes.

Care should also be taken to select local provenance when sourcing native wildflower seed, trees and shrubs.



How do you know if a plant is pollinator friendly?

- Single instead of double flowered varieties: double flowered varieties provide almost no nectar and pollen for pollinators
- Perennials over annuals: perennial plants are generally better sources of pollen and nectar
- Do you see pollinators visiting it? When choosing plants to buy at a garden centre, you will quickly realise what flowers pollinators visit most. Also keep an eye out for the Royal Horticultural Society's "Perfect for Pollinators" logo, which is now used by many suppliers of garden plants



Info Box:

Daffodils or Tulips are not a good source of food for pollinators. Bees will only use Daffodils if there are no other food sources available.

Info Box:

Traditional bedding plants like Geraniums, Begonias, Busy Lizzy, Petunias, Polyanthus or Salvia splendens have virtually no pollen and nectar and are of little value to pollinators.



3. Try to adopt a whole-town approach to your Pollinator Award entry

Where a project is limited to a small area, for example one town park, this can only compare poorly with entrants who have taken a whole-town approach, with pollinator-friendly sites at various spots around the area.

4. Remember to protect what you have

This is a very important aspect of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan—to protect what you already have (Action 1). Care should be taken not to remove good habitat in favour of new planting. In the past, some groups have removed areas of bramble and ivy—which are already really important food sources for bees and replaced them by planting wildflower seed. In such cases, we would encourage you to try to keep the bramble and ivy where possible, and choose different areas for new planting schemes. This will increase your bee area two-fold!



5. Nesting habitats

Creating nesting sites doesn't just mean bug hotels. Bare earth banks will attract our 62 species of mining solitary bees – many more species than catered for by bee hotels.



Bigger isn't always better!

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan recommends smaller bee hotels. The very large hotels can be more susceptible to pests and disease.

See our How-to-guide 'Creating wild pollinator nesting habitat' for more details.

6. Don't forget to protect your hedgerows

We can't overestimate the importance of flowering hedgerows (Action 12). Flowering hedgerows that contain Hazel, Willow, Blackthorn and Hawthorn provide food in spring when wild bees come out of hibernation. Bramble is a good source of food in summer, and Ivy in the autumn. Bumblebees often nest in long grass at the base of hedgerows.





PLEASE NOTE: The more information you can give us in your application form to explain what actions you're taking the better. Remember, we won't know anything about your pollinator project unless you include it in your application.

7.

Don't forget that hanging baskets or planters can also be planted with pollinator-friendly plants such as Verbena and Bacopa.

Even small planters and window boxes can be planted with pollinator-friendly species.



A NOTE ON PESTICIDES:

While the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan recommends the reduction or elimination of pesticides where possible, it must also be noted that **it is necessary** to use pesticides to treat certain invasive species, such as Japanese Knotweed.

Please engage with your local authority in relation to mapping and treatment of Invasive species.



8. Please include a map and captioned photographs with your application.

By including a marked map of your town or village, and well captioned photographs you will help us to fully understand your pollinator actions.



9. We have some new tools to help create awareness of pollinators

For the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 to be successful we need to raise public awareness so that people know the importance of pollinators and understand why we all need to take action. Local communities can play a vital role in this regard.

Our newest How-to-guide explains how to make a Pollinator Plan for a school.

Both this new How-to-guide and the Junior version of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan can be downloaded from our website, www.pollinators.ie



NEW VIDEOS AND ANIMATIONS

With the support of the Heritage Officers of Kildare, Tipperary, Wicklow, and Waterford County Councils, we have produced some videos and an animation to help explain the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

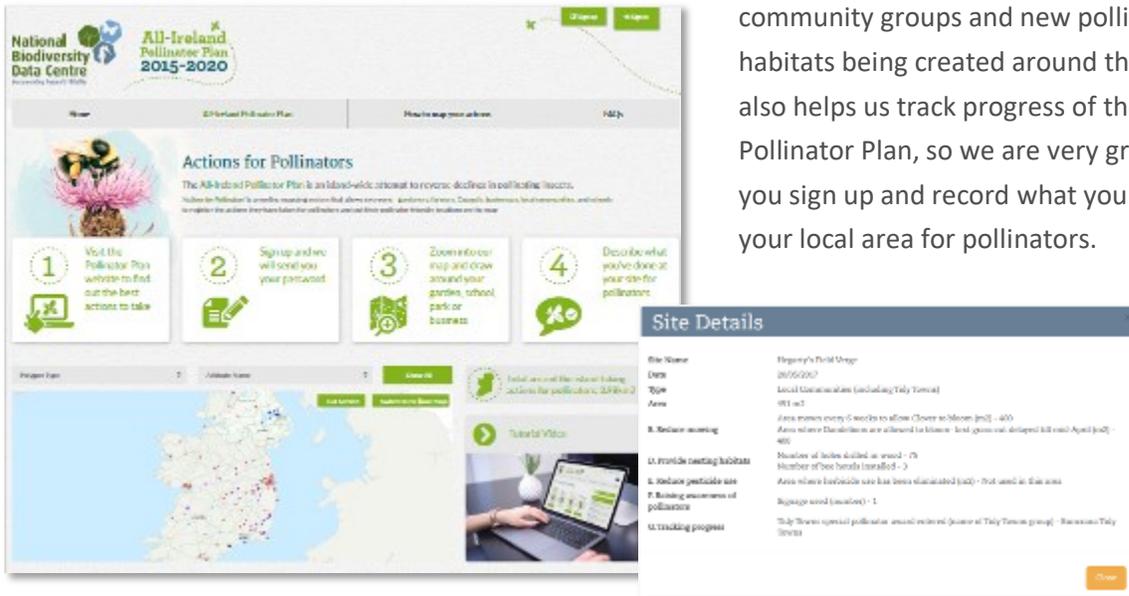
Please help to show/share these in your community and through social media. See www.pollinators.ie or <https://www.youtube.com/user/biodatacentre>

10. Make sure you tell us about your good work— log your actions for Pollinators on our online mapping system

We would like to encourage you to log your actions for pollinators on our online mapping system:

<https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/>

This helps us to track the amazing work of community groups and new pollinator-friendly habitats being created around the country. It also helps us track progress of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, so we are very grateful when you sign up and record what you are doing in your local area for pollinators.



Our guidelines for Local Communities explain in detail 24 evidence-based actions that will help pollinators in your area.

By studying these in detail before carrying out works you will take the correct actions!



www.pollinators.ie

Becoming a business supporter

As part of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, there is a framework within which businesses can sign up as a business supporter of the Pollinator Plan. Under this framework a business agrees to take one action within their first year and another two by 2020.

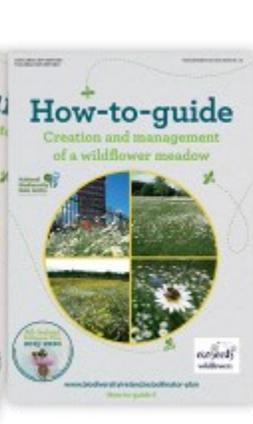
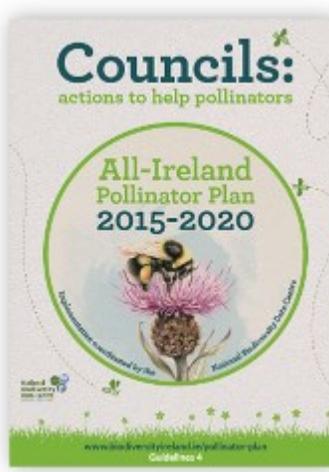


You might like to promote

the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to local businesses and encourage them to make their outdoor spaces pollinator friendly or to sponsor local pollinator-friendly actions, such as a roundabout, or a print run of guidelines to clients, gardeners or local schools.

Why not share our guidelines with other sectors in your area?

Download all our materials at www.pollinators.ie



National Biodiversity Data Centre
Documenting Ireland's Wildlife



Contact Us

See our website www.pollinators.ie for more information

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