



TOP TEN

pollinator-friendly plants for different situations

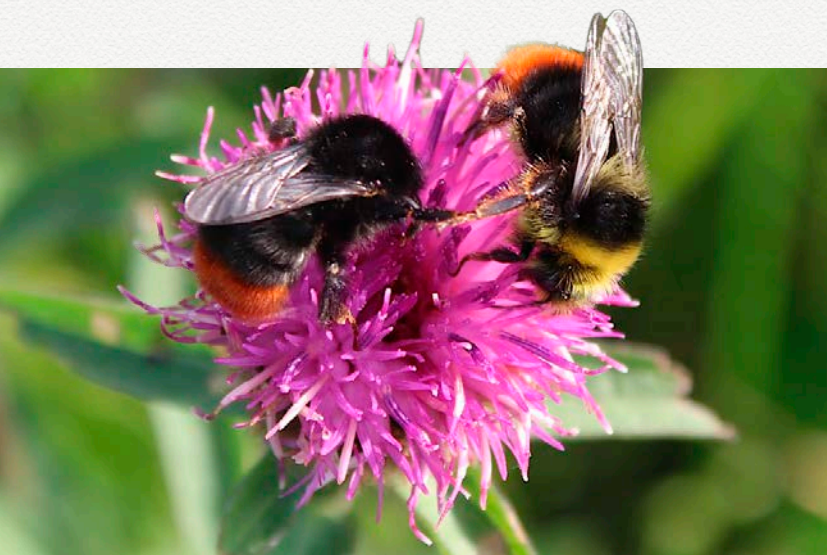


TOP TEN GUIDE

Across the island of Ireland, pollinators are in decline. Experts agree that they are in trouble due to a lack of food. We need them to pollinate our crops and wild plants, but our landscape doesn't provide the abundance and diversity of flowering plants they need to survive throughout their life cycle.

To have a healthy balanced diet, they need to be able to feed on pollen and nectar from a range of flowers from early spring to autumn. Flowers rich in pollen and nectar are known as '**pollinator-friendly**'.

It is important to always prioritise increasing **native** plants (trees, shrubs, wildflowers) across the landscape to provide food for pollinators. These are the plants our pollinators have evolved alongside, and so are perfectly adapted to give them what they need.



In our gardens and urban spaces however, we can deliberately choose non-native plants (or '**ornamental**' species) that are pollinator friendly to help provide additional sources of food. These species should never be planted in the wider landscape.

About this guide

This guide was developed by the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in collaboration with Dr Noeleen Smyth of Horticulture, University College Dublin. The species selected are based on personal observations, the Royal Horticultural Society's 'Perfect for Pollinators' lists, hobbyist websites, and discussions with horticulturalists,

The main purpose of this guideline is to highlight some known pollinator-friendly plants for different situations. As wild bees hibernate in winter, plant suggestions are mainly focussed on species that flower from early spring through to autumn. These lists are neither exhaustive nor definitive but provide an overview of plants that flower through the year and are known to be good sources of pollen and nectar. There is overlap within certain lists as some plants are suitable in different situations. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan's Planting Code provides more comprehensive lists of pollinator friendly plants for those interested.

All plants in this guide have been checked against known invasive species, or species that are at risk of being invasive. No invasive plants, or plants with the potential to be invasive, have been included.



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Native meadow plants

These pollinator-friendly native meadow plants evolved alongside our pollinators and are excellent sources of pollen and nectar.

When to plant:

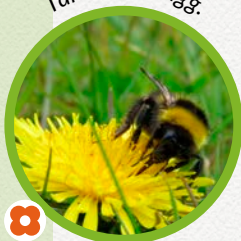
Don't plant anything! These native wildflowers will naturally return to grassy areas through the correct management. Give your meadow time to naturally develop. If, after several years, you don't have these species, you could consider collecting seed from local naturally occurring wildflowers and growing as plugs to add to your meadow. See our guide on how to collect and use wildflower seed for advice: www.pollinators.ie/resources



How to manage:

Adopt a 'Don't Mow, Let it Grow' policy. Cut meadows once a year in September and remove the cuttings. This reduces the fertility of the soil and allows flowers to emerge naturally over time. Visit www.pollinators.ie to find additional resources on meadow management.

Dandelion
Taraxacum agg.



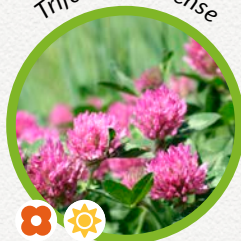
Yellow-rattle
Rhinanthus minor



Dog Daisy/Oxeye Daisy
Leucanthemum vulgare



Red Clover
Trifolium pratense



Vetches
Vicia spp.



White Clover
Trifolium repens



Self-heal
Prunella vulgaris



Yarrow
Achillea millefolium



Devil's-bit Scabious
Succisa pratensis



Knapweed
Centaurea nigra



Flowering time:

Spring Summer Autumn Winter

Native hedgerows

These plants are commonly found in hedgerows throughout Ireland. They usually flower early in the year, and are an important early source of food for pollinators emerging from hibernation.



When to plant:

Traditional local provenance bare root hedging is often available from nurseries during the winter months and is usually planted between November and March when conditions are suitable. You must ensure it is locally sourced. Hawthorn and Blackthorn are the most commonly available species. The others can be found as individual potted plants and can be planted out throughout the year when conditions are suitable (when the soil is not too wet or too dry.)

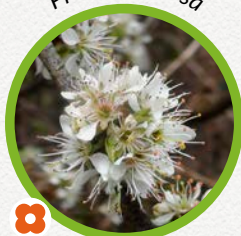
How to manage:

Native hedgerow plants must be allowed to flower to be of value to pollinators. Flowers grow on older wood, so cut no more than every three years and allow your hedge to grow in an 'A' shape. These plants require very little trimming, but when you do trim, only do so between 1st September and end of February so as not to interfere with flowering or bird nesting season. Even then, try to leave your hedge until later in the winter as berries are an important food source for other wildlife.

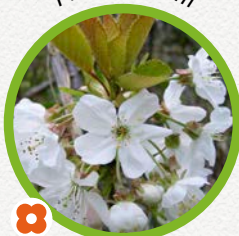
Goat Willow
Salix caprea



Blackthorn
Prunus spinosa



Wild Cherry
Prunus avium



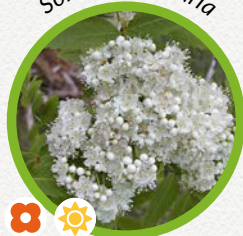
Crab Apple
Malus domestica



Hawthorn/Whitethorn
Crataegus monogyna



Rowan/Mountain Ash
Sorbus aucuparia



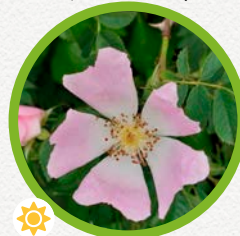
Elder
Sambucus nigra



Spindle
Euonymus europaeus



Dog Rose
Rosa canina



Ivy
Hedera helix



Flowering time:

🌸 Spring 🌞 Summer 🍂 Autumn ❄ Winter

Note: Ivy will appear within hedgerows on its own. It is a good idea to let it remain as a late source of nectar for insects



Native trees & shrubs

Many of the plants on this list are also found in hedgerows. They blossom in spring and summer and are a low-maintenance, vital source of food for pollinators.

When to plant:

Seed can be sown outdoors with the fleshy parts removed in the autumn/winter and will germinate by the first spring (or second spring in the case of Hawthorn and Holly). Germinated seedlings can then be planted out the following autumn as a bare rooted plant. Avoid planting trees in areas which already contain valuable habitats such as species-rich grassland; wetlands or areas adjacent to streams, coastal habitat, bogs, heathland, or sites with rare or protected species.

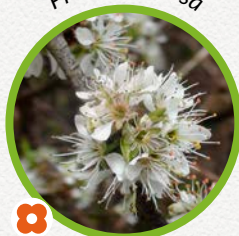
How to manage:

Plant trees in a position suitable for their eventual adult size. Once they are planted in the correct position, they require minimal maintenance of a check once a year.

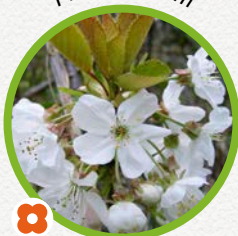
Willow
Salix spp.



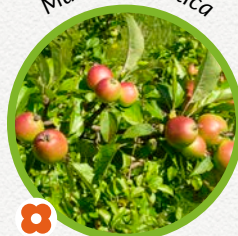
Blackthorn
Prunus spinosa



Wild Cherry
Prunus avium



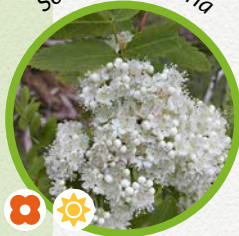
Crab Apple
Malus domestica



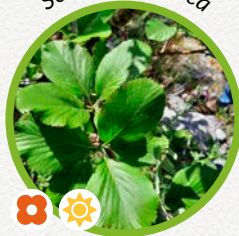
Hawthorn/Whitethorn
Crataegus monogyna



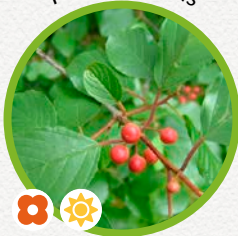
Rowan/Mountain Ash
Sorbus aucuparia



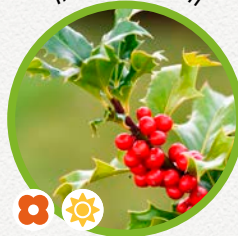
Irish Whitebeam
Sorbus hibernica



Alder Buckthorn
Frangula alnus



Holly
Ilex aquifolium



Guelder Rose
Viburnum opulus



Flowering time:

Spring
 Summer
 Autumn
 Winter

Native wetland plants

Wetlands are valuable habitats for a range of plants, animals, and insects. The plants below are native wetland species that are particularly good for pollinators.



When to plant:

None of the below require planting. All you need to do to help these plants grow is to retain and protect wetland habitats such as wet grasslands, riparian margins, ditches, or ponds.

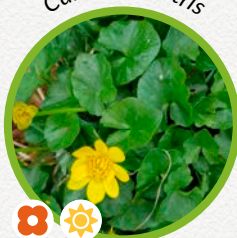
How to manage:

There is no need to do anything once these have established in your wetland. They will reappear naturally year after year when conditions are suitable.

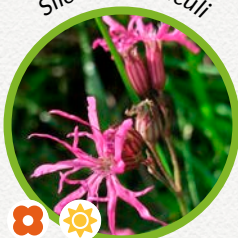
Cuckooflower/Lady's Smock
Cardamine pratensis



Marsh-marigold
Caltha palustris



Ragged-Robin
Silene flos-cuculi



Brooklime
Veronica beccabunga



Common Valerian
Valeriana officinalis



Marsh Woundwort
Stachys palustris



Meadowsweet
Filipendula ulmaria



Water Mint
Mentha aquatica



Wild Angelica
Angelica sylvestris



Purple-loosestrife
Lythrum salicaria




























Flowering time:

Spring
 Summer
 Autumn
 Winter



Food for birds and mammals

The native plants below are pollinator friendly and are also excellent sources of food for birds and mammals when they go to seed or produce fruit.

Native plant species	Provides food for pollinators	Provides food for birds/mammals
Dandelion		Seeds 
Blackthorn		Berries 
Crab Apple		Berries 
Holly	 	Berries 
Elder	 	Berries 
Hawthorn/Whitethorn	 	Berries 
Thistles		Seeds  
Guelder Rose		Berries 
Knapweed	 	Seeds 
Ivy		Berries 

Flowering time:

 Spring  Summer  Autumn  Winter



Ornamental Trees



These are non-native pollinator-friendly trees. Whilst not as valuable as native species, they can still supplement the food provided by native plants but should be kept to gardens and parks.

When to plant:

Ornamental trees can be planted all year round as container grown plants when soil conditions are suitable. Dig a larger planting pit than needed and add peat-free organic compost to help the roots establish. Staking is not needed for small trees.

How to manage:

Choose the correct site to suit the scale and eventual size of the tree. After that they require no maintenance, but any trimming or pruning should be carried out immediately after flowering.

Juneberry Tree
Amelanchier spp. and cultivars



☀️

Willow cultivars
Salix aegyptiaca, Salix alba



☀️

Field maple
Acer campestre



☀️

Judas Tree
Cercis spp.



☀️

Japanese crab apple
Malus floribunda



☀️

Rowan/Mountain Ash
Sorbus aucuparia varieties



☀️ ☀️

Golden Chain Tree
Laburnum spp.



☀️

Limes
Tilia spp. and cultivars



☀️

Strawberry Tree
Arbutus unedo



☀️

Autumn Cherry
Prunus subhirtella var. autumnalis



☀️ ❄️

Flowering time:

☀️ Spring ☀️ Summer 🍂 Autumn ❄️ Winter



Ornamental Shrubs

These non-native plants can be found in most garden centres and nurseries and grow to 1-2 metres high. Whilst not as valuable as native species, they can still supplement the food provided by native plants but should be kept to gardens and parks.

When to plant:

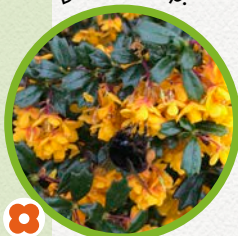
Ornamental shrubs are container grown and can be planted out any time of the year once the soil conditions are suitable. Ensure the planting pit is large enough to accommodate the plant with some space for root growth and add organic matter if the soil is very compact and heavy.

How to manage:

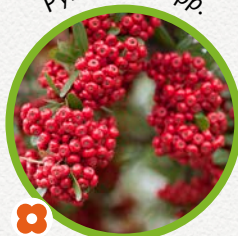
You may need to give some of these plants an annual trim to keep them in shape, but some species will only flower if left uncut for a couple of years, so check before you chop. Only prune plants after they flower, and ideally let them fruit to provide food for other wildlife.

Defensive shrub planting: Some the shrubs listed below (Barberry, Firethorn, Mahonia) are pollinator friendly but can also act as a barrier or deterrent to any unwanted creatures (including humans) with their spiny stems or leaves. Other options where defensive shrub planting is necessary are native species like Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*); or ornamental species like Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) or Manuka Tree (*Leptospermum spp.*).

Barberry
Berberis spp.



Firethorn
Pyracantha spp.



Hebe
Hebe spp.



potentilla
potentilla spp.



Abelia
Abelia spp. and cultivars



Star Jasmine

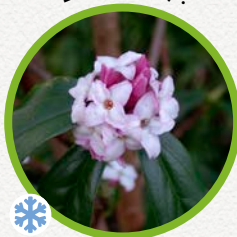
Trachelospermum jasminoides



Oregon Grape
Mahonia spp.



Daphne
Daphne spp.



Sweet Box
Sarcococca hookeriana



Viburnum
Viburnum tinus



Flowering time:

Spring Summer Autumn Winter

Bulbs

These colourful non-native plants brighten up gardens and parks in winter and early spring. Only single flowered varieties are of benefit to pollinators. Whilst not as valuable as native species, they can still supplement the food provided by native plants but should be kept to gardens and parks.



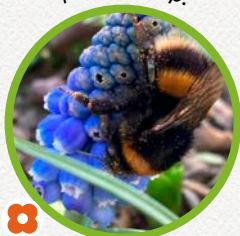
When to plant:

Plant spring-flowering bulbs in autumn, and summer and autumn-flowering bulbs in spring. The planting depth recommended is usually 1.5 to 2.5 times the size of the bulb. Take care to follow instructions on the packet and plant bulbs the correct way up. Look for a flat root plate or dried roots, and you'll know this is the bottom. The top of a bulb is also usually narrower than the bottom.

How to manage:

These are all perennial and will grow year after year. Once planted they require little maintenance. If you want to extend your bulb area you can divide and plant the smaller bulbs and corms that form after flowering. Always allow foliage to die back naturally as it provides the bulb with food for the next flowering season. If you remove foliage too early, the flowers will become smaller in subsequent years.

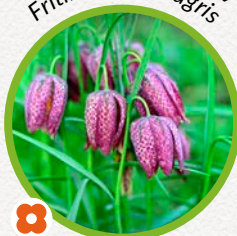
Grape Hyacinth
Muscari spp.



Wood Anemone
Anemone nemerosa



Snake's Head Fritillary
Fritillaria meleagris



Camassia
Camassia leichtlinii and cultivars



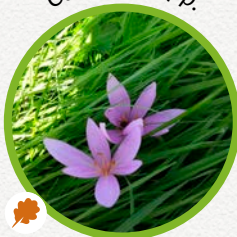
Star of Bethlehem
Ornithogalum umbellatum



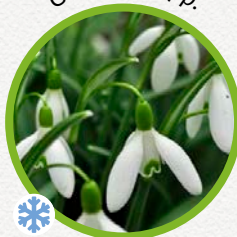
Ornamental Allium
Allium spp. and cultivars



Autumn Crocus
Colchicum spp.



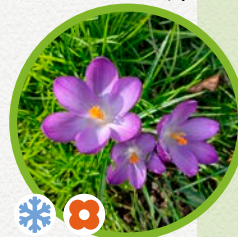
Snowdrop
Galanthus spp.



Winter Aconite
Eranthis hyemalis



Crocus
Crocus spp.



Flowering time:

Spring
 Summer
 Autumn
 Winter

Note: Wood Anemone occurs as a native plant but is also commonly purchased as a spring flowering bulb from garden centres or nurseries. Purchased plants should never be added to the wider landscape.



Herbs

Packed with nectar, pollen, and flavour, herbs are a great choice for pollinators and your own kitchen. Many grow happily in a pot or window box, and so are perfect if you have limited space. Whilst not as valuable as native species, they can still supplement the food provided by native plants, but should be kept to gardens and parks.

When to plant:

Herbs can be planted all year round from container grown plants and mainly flower in the summer. You can also sow from seed following instructions on the packet.

How to manage:

When harvesting herbs, make sure you allow some stems to flower to provide food for pollinators. At the end of the flowering season, trim them back for the winter. Move herbs growing in pots over winter into bigger containers in early spring with fresh peat free compost and organic fertiliser.

Rosemary
Salvia rosmarinus



Chives
Allium schoenoprasum



Thyme
Thymus



Oregano 'Golden'
Origanum vulgare



Borage
*Borago officinalis**



Lemon Balm
Melissa officinalis



Bergamot
Monarda didyma



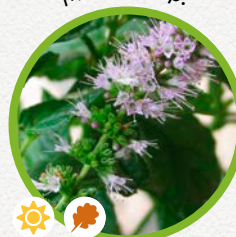
Fennel
Foeniculum vulgare



Sage
Salvia officinalis



Mint
*Mentha spp.**



Note: Be careful with Borage and Mint as they can spread. With the exception of Borage, these are all perennial plants and will return year after year.

Flowering time:

🌸 Spring 🌞 Summer 🍂 Autumn ❄️ Winter

Fruit and Vegetables

These plants need to be pollinated to produce good yields of fruits. The blossoms will feed pollinators in spring-summer, and you will reap the rewards of their labours in the summer and autumn!



Plant species	Flowering time
Pear (<i>Pyrus spp.</i> and cultivars)	🌸
Apple (<i>Malus spp.</i> and cultivars)	🌸
Blueberry	🌸
Blackcurrant	🌸
Raspberry	🌸 ☀️
Strawberries	🌸 ☀️
Beans	🌸 ☀️
Tomatoes	☀️
Courgettes	☀️
Pumpkins	☀️

Flowering time:

🌸 Spring ☀️ Summer 🍂 Autumn ❄️ Winter





Gardens

Perennials are plants that flower for more than two years. They die back after flowering only to return the following year, providing a great show of flowers and food for pollinators year after year.

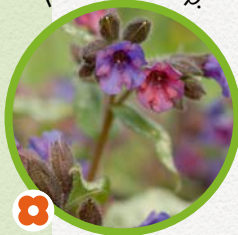
When to plant:

Plant container grown material at any time of the year when conditions are right.

How to manage:

These perennials will die back to ground or near ground level in autumn and winter, so dead leaves and stems will have to be trimmed off and removed. They can be easily divided to produce more plants after a few years.

Lungwort
Pulmonaria spp.



Comfrey
Symphytum spp.



Perennial Wallflower
Erysimum spp.



Lamb's-ear
Stachys byzantina



Catnip & Catmint
Nepeta spp. and cultivars



Lavender
Lavendula spp.



Sage
Salvia spp.



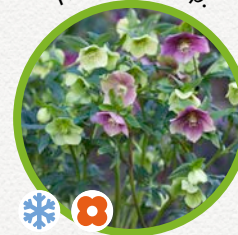
Vervain; purple top
Verbena bonariensis



Michaelmas Daisy
Aster spp.



Hellebore
Helleborus spp.



Flowering time:

Spring Summer Autumn Winter

Note: Be careful with Comfrey as it can spread.

Garden ponds



Creating a pond is one of the best things you can do for wildlife. Even a small pond can become a haven for many creatures, including pollinators if the right plants are present.

When to plant:

Add these perennials as container-grown material at any time of the year.

How to manage:

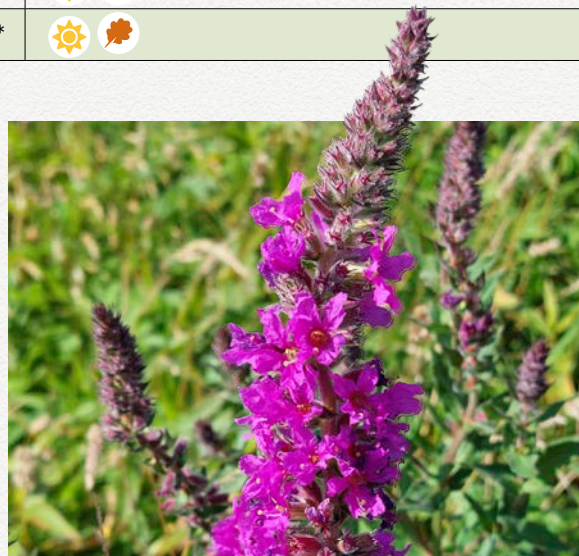
If you are using a pond liner, make sure it is not punctured by the plants' shoots or roots. Keep these plants to your garden and ensure they do not enter the wider environment or local waterways.

Plant species	Flowering time
Marsh Marigold (<i>Caltha palustris</i>)*	☀️ ☀️
Ragged-Robin (<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>)*	☀️ ☀️
Flag Iris (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>) *	☀️
Water Forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>) *	☀️
Pickeral Weed (<i>Pontederia cordata</i>)	☀️
Water Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>) *	☀️
Creeping Jenny (<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>) *	☀️
Water Mint (<i>Mentha aquatica</i>) *	☀️ 🍂
Brooklime (<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>) *	☀️ 🍂
Purple-loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> and cultivars)*	☀️ 🍂

Flowering time:

☀️ Spring ☀️ Summer 🍂 Autumn ❄️ Winter

*Note: Some of these also occur as native plants in Ireland. However, cultivated forms can be found in Nurseries and Garden Centres. These purchased plants should never be added to the wider landscape.





Urban flower beds

Urban flower beds can be a great resource for pollinators. Choose perennial species and aim to have something flowering in every season to provide colour and food for pollinators all year round. Avoid double flowering varieties.

When to plant:

A flower bed can be planted at any time of the year, usually in spring. You could also underplant with bulbs and small flowering shrubs.

How to manage:

Throughout the growing season, water plants and liquid feed if necessary. Trim away dead leaves and flowers at the end of the season. These are perennial species so will continue to grow year after year.

Plant species	Flowering time
Elephant's ears (<i>Bergenia spp.</i>)	🌸
Lungwort (<i>Pulmonaria spp.</i>)	🌸
Wallflower (<i>Erysimum spp</i> and cultivars)	🌸 ☀️
Macedonia Scabious (<i>Knautia macedonica</i>)	☀️
Lamb's-ear (<i>Stachys byzantina</i>)	☀️
Purple Coneflower (<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>)	☀️
White Gaura (<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i>)	☀️ 🍂
Salvia (<i>Salvia microphylla</i> hybrids and cultivars)	☀️ 🍂
Agapanthus (<i>Agapanthus spp.</i>)	☀️ 🍂
Vervain; purple top (<i>Verbena bonariensis</i>)	☀️ 🍂



Flowering time:

🌸 Spring ☀️ Summer 🍂 Autumn ❄️ Winter





Urban planters

Containers in cities and towns can provide colour and even flavour for local communities. Always choose single flowered varieties and cultivars. The perennial plants below grow and flower well in containers and can tolerate dry conditions and restricted root space conditions.

When to plant:

Urban planters are usually planted once or twice a year for the winter and summer seasons. The species below are perennial, so will only need to be planted once. Planters can be sown any time of year from container grown plants.

How to manage:

After a couple of years, change the compost to provide more nutrients. Some plants might grow too large for their containers and need to be divided or replaced. Trim away dead leaves and flowers, and water and feed as necessary through the growing season.

Heathers
Erica spp. and cultivars

☀️ ☀️ 🍂 ❄️

Skimmia
Skimmia japonica

☀️

Lungwort
Pulmonaria spp.

☀️

Rosemary
Salvia rosmarinus

☀️ ☀️

Sea Thrift
Armeria maritima varieties

☀️ ☀️

Lavender
Lavendula spp.

☀️

Coronilla
Coronilla glauca

☀️ ☀️

Hardy Geranium
Geranium spp. and cultivars

☀️ 🍂

Michaelmas Daisy
Aster spp. small cultivars

☀️ 🍂

Sweet Box
Sarcococca spp.

❄️

Flowering time:

☀️ Spring ☀️ Summer 🍂 Autumn ❄️ Winter



Very low maintenance

These are perennial plants and shrubs which can thrive with very little maintenance or attention.

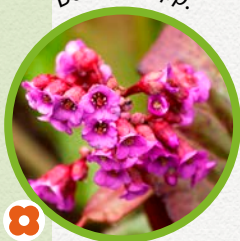
When to plant:

Plant all year round from container grown material

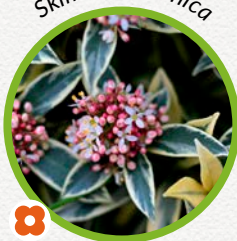
How to manage:

These plants need very little maintenance. They are all low-growing or evergreen shrubs which will provide colour and structure throughout the year. They can also spread to cover the soil which will in turn reduce weeding.

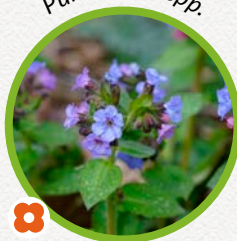
Elephant's ears
Bergenia spp.



Skimmia
Skimmia japonica



Lungwort
Pulmonaria spp.



Fleabane
Erigeron spp.



Hebe
Hebe spp.



Sea thrift
Ameria maritima varieties



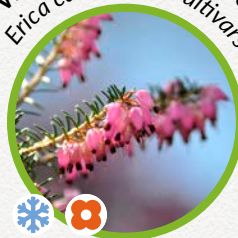
Lamb's-ear
Stachys byzantina



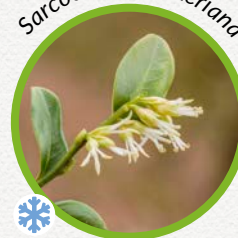
Coral Bells
Heuchera spp.



Winter flowering Heather
Erica carnea and cultivars



Sweet Box
Sarcococca hookeriana



Flowering time:

☀ Spring ☀ Summer 🍂 Autumn ❄ Winter



Roundabouts

The pollinator-friendly perennial plants below are long-lasting and require little maintenance, making them ideal for the centre of roundabouts.

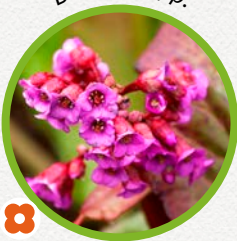
When to plant:

The plants selected here will provide structure and colour throughout the year. Plant at any time of year from container-grown materials. Pollinator friendly bulbs could also be incorporated into the planting scheme to add additional floral resources for pollinators.

How to manage:

These plants benefit from a trim at the end of their flowering season to remove loose or dead materials. Generally though, they require little maintenance, and are suitable for roundabouts which can be difficult to access due to health and safety.

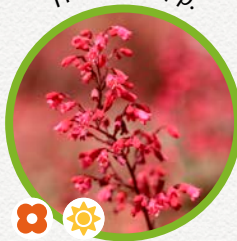
Elephant's ears
Bergenia spp.



Rosemary
Salvia rosmarinus



Coral Bells
Heuchera spp.



Perennial Candytuft
Iberis sempervirens



Lavender
Lavandula spp.



Hebe
Hebe spp.



Catmint
Nepeta x faassenii



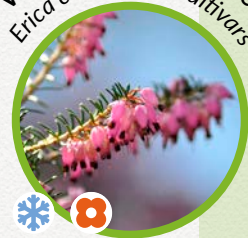
Vervain; purple top
Verbena bonariensis



Michaelmas Daisy
Aster spp.



Winter flowering Heather
Erica carnea and cultivars



Flowering time:

 Spring
  Summer
  Autumn
  Winter



Coastal

These shrubs and perennials are adapted to withstand coastal weather conditions such as drying and salty winds.

When to plant:

Plant at any time of the year from container grown material.

How to manage:

Remove any dead leaves or flowers as necessary. The lower-growing herbaceous species will only need a trim at the end of their flowering seasons. Daisy Bush and Japanese Aralia only require pruning if they are outgrowing their space.

Lamb's-ear
Stachys byzantina



Daisy Bush
Olearia spp



Shasta Daisy - open flowers
Leucanthemum x superbum



Fleabane
Erigeron spp.



Sea Thrift
Armeria maritima varieties



Catmint & cultivars
Nepeta spp. and cultivars



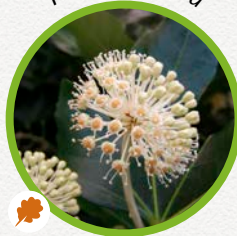
Michaelmas Daisy
Aster spp.



Coneflower
Rudbeckia spp.



Japanese Aralia
Fatsia japonica



Mediterranean Spurge
Euphorbia characias



Flowering time:

☀ Spring ☀ Summer 🍂 Autumn ❄ Winter



Acid soils

Acid soils are often found near bogs and mountains. The perennial plants below are adapted to soils with a low pH. If you're not sure about your soil's pH, you can pick up a pH testing kit in most garden centres.

When to plant:

Plant any time of year from container grown plant material.

How to manage:

These plants are low maintenance. Heathers benefit from a trim after flowering, and dead flowers or stray stems can be removed as often or as little as you like.

Plant species	Flowering time
Bell Heather (<i>Erica cinerea</i> cultivars)*	☀️
Lily-of-the-Valley bush (<i>Pieris</i> spp.)	☀️
Enkianthus (<i>Enkianthus campanulatus</i>)	☀️ ☀️
Strawberry (<i>Fragaria vesca</i>)*	☀️ ☀️
Heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> single cultivars and not colour sprayed)	☀️ ☀️
Beautyberry (<i>Callicarpa</i> spp.)	☀️
Bugle (<i>Ajuga reptans</i>)*	☀️
Purple-loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> cultivars)*	☀️ 🍂
Orpine (<i>Hylotelephium telephium</i>)	☀️ 🍂
Stachyurus (<i>Stachyurus praecox</i>)	❄️

*Note: some of these also occur as native plants in Ireland. However, cultivated forms can be found in Nurseries and Garden Centres. These purchased plants should never be added to the wider landscape.

Flowering time:

☀️ Spring ☀️ Summer 🍂 Autumn ❄️ Winter



Alkaline soils

Most gardens in Ireland have alkaline or lime rich soils. The shrubs and perennials below are particularly suited to higher pH soils. If you're not sure about your soil's pH, you can pick up a pH testing kit in most garden centres.

When to plant:

Plant at any time of the year from container grown material.

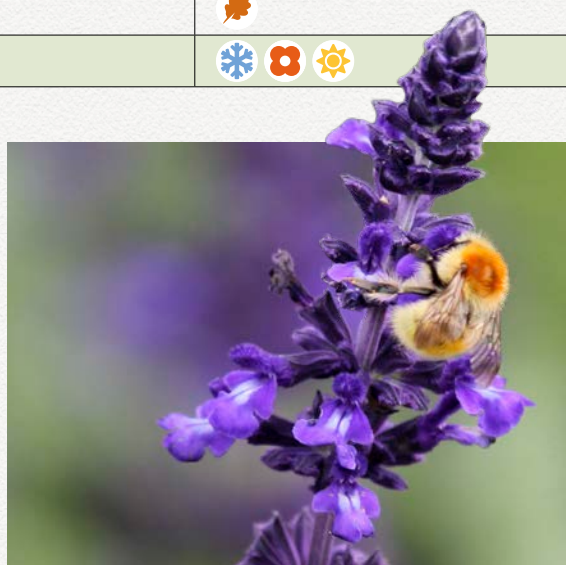
How to manage:

Deadheading during the growing season will encourage more flowering. Cut back any dead stems at the end of the growing season. Let shrubs flower and fruit before trimming them and only prune where necessary.

Plant species	Flowering time
Perennial Wallflowers (<i>Erysimum spp.</i>)	☀️ ☀️
Spurge (<i>Euphorbia spp.</i>)	☀️ ☀️
Linnaea x grandiflora (<i>Abelia grandiflora</i>)	☀️ ☀️
Rose - open centre, scented (<i>Rosa spp.</i>)	☀️
Globe Thistle (<i>Echinops spp.</i>)	☀️
Catnip & Catmint (<i>Nepeta spp.</i> and cultivars)	☀️
Lavender (<i>Lavendula spp.</i>)	☀️
Michaelmas Daisy (<i>Aster spp.</i>)	🍂 ☀️
Japanese Aralia (<i>Fatsia japonica</i>)	🍂
Viburnum (<i>Viburnum spp.</i>)	❄️ ☀️ ☀️

Flowering time:

☀️ Spring ☀️ Summer 🍂 Autumn ❄️ Winter



Shade

If you are wondering what to put in a shady spot in your garden, these shrubs and perennial plants are a good choice for areas with little sunlight.



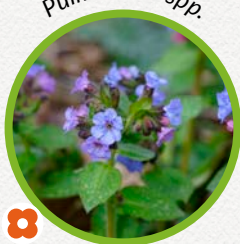
When to plant:

All year round from container grown material.

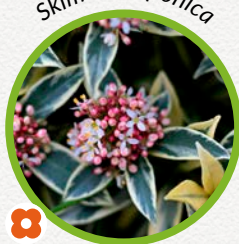
How to manage:

Trim to remove any dead leaves or flowers. Only prune after flowering. You could also could underplant with bulbs to add additional flowers and colour.

Lungwort
Pulmonaria spp.



Skimmia
Skimmia japonica



Monkshood
Aconitum carmichaelii



Beautyberry
Callicarpa bodinieri



Barberry
Berberis spp. and cultivars



Coral Bells
Heuchera spp.



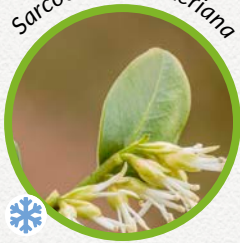
Japanese Anemone
Anemone x hybrida single flowered cultivars



Japanese Aralia
Fatsia japonica



Sweet Box
Sarcococca hookeriana



Oregon Grape
Mahonia spp.



Flowering time:

Spring Summer Autumn Winter



Green roofs















The perennial plants below have shallow roots and grow low, perfect for areas with limited soil such as green roofs.

When to plant:





A green roof requires lightweight, peat-free compost. The deeper the substrate on the roof the heavier the load, so ensure your roof is designed from the outset as a green roof. The plants below will tolerate extremely shallow soil of 15-25cm. Once the site has been prepared, they can be planted at any time of the year from container grown plant material.

How to manage:

These plants require very little maintenance. Carry out a seasonal tidy and check to ensure the compost levels and roof structure are intact. These plants like their soil to be free draining and will not tolerate becoming waterlogged.

Plant species	Flowering time
Low growing Spurge (<i>Euphorbia epithymoides</i>)	 
Perennial Candytuft (<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>)	 
Marjoram (<i>Origanum spp.</i>)	 
Thyme (<i>Thymus spp.</i>)	
Rock Rose (<i>Helianthemum spp.</i>)	
Aubretia (<i>Aubrieta spp.</i>)	
Sea Thrift (<i>Armeria maritima</i> varieties)	
Hyssop (<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>)	 
Stonecrop (<i>Sedum spp.</i>)	
Houseleeks (<i>Sempervivum spp.</i>)	

Flowering time:

 Spring  Summer  Autumn  Winter



Summer bedding plants: containers

Annuals are plants that only live for one growing season. They are a popular choice for providing colour during the summer in urban containers and gardens.

When to plant:

Sow seed indoors in spring and grow on in containers indoors in April/May. Place outside at the end of May after the spring frosts. These species can also be bought in trays or pots from nurseries and garden centres in season.

How to manage:

Ensure container compost has enough fertiliser to last the growing season. Adding water-retaining granules can help reduce watering needs. Containers also benefit from a fortnightly liquid feed through the summer. Remove dead flowers to encourage regrowth.

Sweet William
Dianthus barbatus



African daisies
Gazania cultivars



Vervain
Verbena rigida



Snapdragon
Antirrhinum majus



Common Heliotrope
Heliotropium arborescens



Cosmos
Cosmos bipinnatus



Marigold - single flowered
Tagetes tenuifolia



Dahlia - dwarf single flowered cultivars
Dahlia



Bacopa
Sutera cordata



Bidens
Bidens ferulifolia



Flowering time:

Spring Summer Autumn Winter



Summer bedding plants: hanging baskets

Hanging baskets can provide colour and interest even in small spaces. Filling them with the annual plants below can help create more pockets of food in the landscape for pollinators.

When to plant:

Plants for summer hanging baskets are usually available in early spring (March and April) in Garden centres and Nurseries. However, some species listed below are sensitive to frost so cannot be placed outside until the spring frosts have passed (e.g. Marigold and Bidens.)

How to manage:

Plant baskets with peat free compost and include some water retaining granules at the planting stage. Water well after planting and allow plants to settle in before hanging outside. Once the baskets are in place outside, they will need weekly or biweekly water checks, depending on the weather. These plants can also benefit from liquid feeding every second week through the summer to support growth and flowering.

Snapdragon
Antirrhinum majus



Diascia
Diascia spp.



Flossflower
Ageratum houstonianum



Trailing Lobelia
Lobelia erinus



African Daisies
Gazania cultivars



Nasturtium
Tropaeolum



Bidens
Bidens ferulifolia



Bacopa
Sutera cordata



Marigold - single flowered
Tagetes tenuifolia



Creeping zinnia
Sanvitalia procumbens



Flowering time:

☀ Spring ☀ Summer 🍂 Autumn ❄ Winter

Hardy annuals

Hardy annuals are grown from seed. They are frost-resistant plants that live for one growing season. They are highly colourful and attract a good range of pollinators to the garden in summer.



When to plant:

Frost hardy seed can be sown directly into the soil in early spring when the ground has warmed.

Flowering time:

☀ Spring ☀ Summer 🍂 Autumn ❄ Winter

How to manage:

Sow directly into the soil in spring. Thin out seedlings as they emerge to prevent damping off and overcrowding. Allow to flower and seed fully before removing dead stems. You can collect seed from many of these plants in the autumn to grow again the following year.



A Warning about Wildflower Seed Mixes

There is no regulation over the content of wildflower seed mixes in Ireland: many have been found to contain non-native species and can inadvertently introduce invasive species. If you do decide to sow them, keep them to garden settings, and ensure they are native and of Irish origin.

If you want to sow colourful flower seed, a more cost-effective option could be pollinator-friendly hardy annuals. You will know what is in the packet, which will have clear instructions to maximise success. These seeds are also non-native, so make sure you don't plant them in the wider landscape.

This booklet is one of a series of guidelines produced to help different sectors take actions under the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. For more information and other useful resources, please see www.pollinators.ie



The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is co-ordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Funding to assist implementation has been provided by the Heritage Council, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Thanks to the following who donated photographs: Owen Beckett, Dick Coombes, Peter Cuthbert, Zoe Devlin, Oisín Duffy, Úna FitzPatrick, Robert Flogaus-Faust, Mary Gethings, Niall Keogh, Liam Lysaght, Andy Mabbett, Andrew Malcolm, Andrea McDonagh, Cathal Noonan, Michael O'Meara, Noeleen Smyth, Ruth Wilson

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About the National Biodiversity Data Centre

The National Biodiversity Data Centre is a national organisation that collects and manages data to document Ireland's wildlife resource, and track how it is changing. Find out what biodiversity has already been recorded in your local area: maps.biodiversityireland.ie

Help us to build up the knowledge of biodiversity in your local area by submitting sightings to records.biodiversityireland.ie

Text: Noeleen Smyth (UCD Horticulture), Úna FitzPatrick & Kate Chandler (National Biodiversity Data Centre). With thanks to Cathal O'Sullivan and Kieran Farrelly of the National Botanic Gardens. **Design:** Vitamin Creative, Waterford

Suggested citation: *Top Ten pollinator plants for different situations. All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, How-to Guide 10.* National Biodiversity Data Centre Series No.29. November 2022.



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture
Food and the Marine



UCD School of Agriculture
and Food Science



UCD
Earth
Institute

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



National Parks &
Wildlife Service