

January

Make a pollinator plan for your garden

Wild pollinators are hibernating now and don't need our help just yet, but you can use this time to get prepared. Look through all our tips, videos and plant lists at www.pollinators.ie, and draw up a 'pollinator plan' for your garden.



February

Create solitary bee nesting sites

Expose a south/east-facing bank by removing vegetation for mining bees. Or erect a small bee hotel for cavity-nesting bees. See 'Creating Wild Pollinator Nesting Habitat' guide at pollinators.ie/gardens



March

Let Dandelions Bee

The humble *Dandelion* is a super food for pollinators. If you can avoid cutting your lawn while *Dandelions* are flowering in March and April, you will be helping to provide much-needed food for early pollinators.



April

Pots for Pollinators

Even if you only have a very small garden or none at all, you can still help. Plant a 'pot for pollinators' to flower on your patio, balcony or window sill throughout the season. See instruction guide at pollinators.ie/gardens



May

No Mow May

Could you leave your lawn mower in the garage during May? This will allow *Red* and *White Clover* to bloom in your lawn to feed the hungry bees.

(True bee-lovers cut their grass just once a month – at the end of June, July and August – to let wildflowers bloom all summer!)



June

Ask your garden centre for pollinator-friendly plants

Unfortunately *Daffodils*, *Tulips*, and traditional bedding plants, such as *Begonias* or *Petunias*, are of little value to pollinators. But there are lots of pollinator-friendly options to choose from. See pollinators.ie/resources



July

Hanging baskets can be pollinator-friendly too

Considering a hanging basket? Make sure it contains *Bidens* or *Bacopa*, pollen-rich flowers that do well in containers.



August

Collect wildflower seeds

It is important to only plant native wildflower seed of local provenance. August is a good time to collect seed locally from your favourite wildflowers. This can be grown on in pots and then added as plugs to your wildflower patch. See our guide 'Collecting and using pollinator-friendly Wildflower Seed' at pollinators.ie/resources



September

Cut long-flowering meadows now

If you have a long-flowering annual meadow area, it is very important to cut and 'lift' or remove clippings now. This helps to reduce fertility of the soil (wildflowers grow best in less fertile soils).



October

Plant a shrub, tree or native hedgerow

Add a pollinator-friendly shrub or tree to your garden that will flower and provide food for pollinators for years to come. There are lots of different types and sizes to choose from!



November

Plant bee-friendly bulbs

Plant pollinator-friendly bulbs such as *Crocus* or *Snowdrops* now, to flower next February/March. This will give early bumblebees a good start to the new year.



December

Take willow cuttings locally to plant in your garden

Willow can be grown easily from cuttings. (It's best to plant well away from house to avoid damaging pipework.) Don't forget you can also create pollinator-friendly gardens in your school, business, or housing estate. Winter is a good time to make plans.

