

LET'S BEE FRIENDLY



Wexford Tidy Towns - Biodiversity Campaign

Bees are the most important pollinating insect because they visit flowers to collect food for their larvae, as well as feeding on floral resources as adults. In Ireland crops such as apples, clover, strawberries and oilseed rape all benefit from pollination and a recent study from the Department of the Environment valued this 'ecosystem service' that bees provide at €85m a year to the economy.

2013: Worldwide study shows the decline of wild bees and other pollinators may be an even more alarming threat to crop yields than the loss of Honey Bees, revealing the irreplaceable contribution of wild insects to global food production.

Gardener's Advice For Bees

Gardens are extremely important for bees, and vice versa. Bees need flowers for sustenance, and flowers need bees for pollination. It's vital you provide flowers throughout the Bumble Bee's life-cycle, from March to September. It's also a good idea to have at least two nectar or pollen-rich plants in flower at any one time during this period. So 'Let's Bee Friendly' by turning part of your garden into a Bumble Bee haven!

- Flowers clustered into clumps of one species will attract more pollinators than individual plants scattered throughout.
- Leave an area of your lawn uncut during summer to allow Clovers and Bird's-foot Trefoil to flower. Uncut verges and wildflower meadows benefit bees.
- Leaving exposed areas of soil at the edges of lawns or creating south facing banks of soil attracts ground nesting species.

Pollinator Friendly Flowers and When to Plant Them



For more information on how you can help the bees go to www.wexfordtidytowns.com

