



Session 1 - Low Maintenance Planting in Public Spaces

How to Guides on gardening for biodiversity:

 All Ireland Pollinator Plan resources and guides: <u>https://pollinators.ie/resources/</u> Excellent website with lots of specific guides for different situations including for local community groups: <u>https://pollinators.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Local-</u> <u>Communities_actions-to-help-pollinators-2018-WEB.pdf</u>

• Gardening for Biodiversity Booklet:

https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/sites/default/files/garden-wildlife-booklet-web-17mb_4.pdf

This beautifully illustrated guide is full of great guidance and suggestions for how to add all kinds of nature into your garden. It covers insects, birds, wildflowers, bees, trees, bats, and habitat creation such as ponds, bog gardens and log piles. This is a really fun and informative guide that's well worth a look!

• YouTube video series on Gardening for Biodiversity

Following on from the Gardening for Biodiversity Booklet, Laois Heritage have created a mini video series on Gardening for Biodiversity which is available here: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4SXNMePVC2HROIoCSHz5M_yYAn6hE-v4

These short videos cover: Pond building, Creating a wildflower meadow, planting trees and hedgerows, creating a log pile and improving your garden for birds.

• Pledge your Garden for Pollinators:

This link shows a great poster from All Ireland Pollinator plan which outlines pollinator friendly actions which are broken down into the months of the year: https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Pledge-your-Garden-for-Pollinators_WEB.pdf





Pollinator Plant List suggestions

 Excellent planting list of pollinator friendly plants from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan: <u>https://pollinators.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Planting-Code-2018-WEB.pdf</u>

It's divided into different types of plant (bulbs, annuals, perennials etc.) which is really useful for planning your garden in advance and deciding how much maintenance you would be happy to give the area.

RHS Plants for Pollinators - Garden plants
 <u>https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/pdf/conservation-and-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators-garden-plants.pdf</u>

List of garden plants that are pollinator friendly, listed by flowering time.

 Note: Please be careful when choosing plants that they are not listed as invasive species in Ireland. If you are in any doubt, you can check the species profiles on the Biodiversity Ireland website, or filter the lists of species to see only invasive species. Available at:

https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Species

- Extra planting suggestions and advice from Session 1:
 - Rudbeckia and Verbena: suitable for containers or in herbaceous borders, full of flowers which delight pollinators and people alike!
 - Lavender: Beloved by pollinators and a great sensory plant that is recommended for dementia and age friendly supports. English lavender is a hardier plant for the Irish climate and does better in the colder weather than the French lavender. Don't forget to lightly prune back the fresh growth on your lavender every autumn to avoid it getting woody. Lavender likes welldrained soils so avoid planting in wet areas.
 - Perennial Nasturtiums: another lovely trailing colourful option that is attractive to pollinators and very easy to grow.
 - Bluebells: if you're having issues with animals eating the bulbs, try lifting a few inches of soil off the targeted area and scattering the bulbs there in autumn before replacing the sod.
 - Yellow rattle: where you have vigorous grasses that are competing with your wildflowers, you can add the plant yellow rattle. Known as 'meadow maker' this semi-parasitic plant absorbs nutrients from neighbouring plants and is great at suppressing grass growth to give wildflowers a chance to compete.
 - Bidens or Bacopa: great pollinator plants for hanging baskets and window boxes
 - Planting for a wire fence: planting a mixed native hedge will soften the area, just give the plants sufficient space from the fence and each other to establish correctly. Alternatively, where space is tight, you could try trailing an ivy up the fence.





Reading Recommendations

- Zoe Devlin The wildflowers of Ireland: a field guide This field guide will help you identify all the lovely wildflowers you discover emerging in areas managed for biodiversity
- Martin Rickard Gardening with ferns For a different view on gardens, have a look at this book and see if you would like to add a touch of the prehistoric to your areas with some ferns.
- John Brookes Planting the country way This book talks about how to plant in a way that compliments the surrounding countryside.
- Annie Martin The magical world of moss gardening This book talks about a different and softer kind of gardening, moss gardening! If you're interested in the beautiful and spongy world of mosses, this book is worth a look at.