

SPRING FLOWERING PLANTS 2017



What is it?

Early in 2016 a small joint pilot initiative between the BSBI and the Data Centre was agreed to record spring flowers. This has involved the Data Centre developing species profiles for 14 easily identifiable spring flowers along with a special on-line recording form. Robert Northridge, Chair of the Committee for Ireland, has been provided with administrative rights to view all the records that are submitted to this survey, and is assisting with validation of the records as required.

Why is it important?

All recording is valuable as it contributes to furthering plant conservation in Ireland. Most plant recording takes place later in the summer. This project is particularly important as it encourages records of early-flowering species that can otherwise be lacking in data. Many of the spring flowering plants are very distinctive, making it a good way for those new to recording to get involved.

Spring flowering plant species the project concentrates on:

1. Bluebell
2. Common Dog-violet
3. Cowslip
4. Cuckooflower
5. Early Dog-violet
6. Early-purple Orchid
7. Lesser Celandine
8. Lords-and-Ladies
9. Primrose
10. Ramsons/Wild garlic
11. Toothwort
12. Winter Heliotrope
13. Wood Anemone
14. Wood-sorrel

Thank you

Huge thanks to all of you who have provided data on spring flowering plants in 2017.

FAST FACTS 2017

2,708

That's the total number of records that have been submitted to the project in 2017 (until end Nov)

385

That's the number of individual recorders who submitted data to the project in 2017

100%

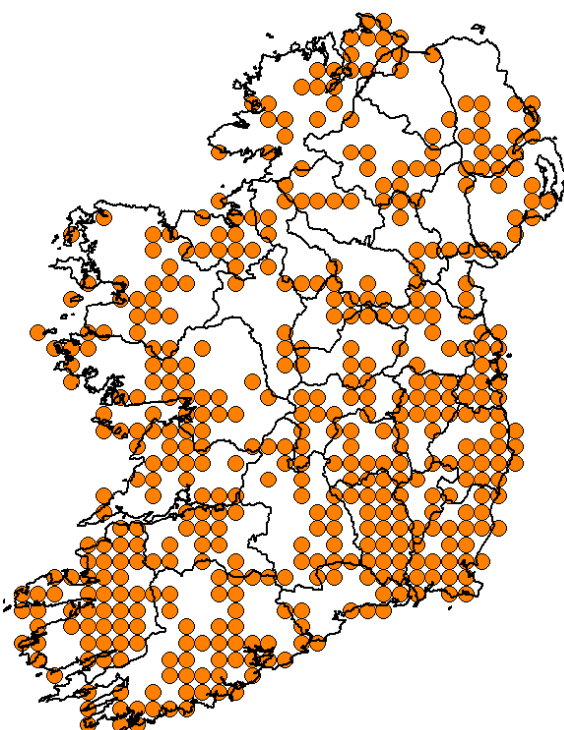
That's how many counties we received records from in 2017

12%

That's how much records of the 14 species increased from 2016

Number of records submitted by species and by county in 2017

Scientific name	Common name	Number of records	County	Number of records
<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser Celandine	542	Kerry	361
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose	436	Cork	292
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	261	Galway	236
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower	240	Clare	182
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet	236	Dublin	179
<i>Petasites fragrans</i>	Winter Heliotrope	208	Wexford	176
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	164	Kilkenny	138
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies	156	Limerick	128
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	141	Donegal	108
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel	96	Mayo	108
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons	90	Wicklow	93
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early-purple Orchid	71	Sligo	85
<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	Early Dog-violet	42	Tipperary	80
<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>	Toothwort	25	Waterford	74
			Offaly	54
			Kildare	51
			Laois	45
			Antrim	43
			Down	43
			Meath	27
			Tyrone	26
			Westmeath	24
			Carlow	22
			Roscommon	20
			Cavan	19
			Monaghan	19
			Derry	15
			Leitrim	15
			Louth	13
			Fermanagh	12
			Longford	11
			Armagh	9



Map showing the distribution of all records of the 14 spring flowering plant species submitted in 2017

Top recorders

Those who submitted the most records in 2017 are: Liam Lysaght, Mary Mahony, Ger Scollard, Laurence Laide, Margaret Cahill, Billy Belshaw & Bridget King.

What happens to the data?

All the data is fully validated. Upon validation, it is loaded into the National Vascular Plant database held by the National Biodiversity Data Centre and made available through 'Biodiversity Maps'. A copy is also provided to the BSBI at the end of each year.

How is the data validated?

Within the Data Centre, all data is manually checked. Previously known distribution and time of year are considered. Where photographs are provided these are consulted. Validation is strict and errs on the side of caution. The spring species most likely to be omitted as a result of the validation process are *Viola reichenbachiana* and *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, where they have been confused with the Common Dog-violet and the Spanish Bluebell respectively. The spring species are not validated in isolation, but rather as part of the general validation process used for all casual plant data submitted to the Centre.

Can I submit data on other species?

Yes, please submit records of any species you can confidently identify throughout the year. They can be submitted online <http://records.biodiversityireland.ie> or via the recording app. All records, regardless of how common the species, are very valuable and contribute towards improving our knowledge of Ireland's flora.

Plans for 2018

In collaboration with the BSBI, we hope to run the project again in 2018. We are currently considering whether to include a few more spring species and also whether it would be valuable to direct recorders to areas that are known to be under-recorded.

Other plant projects in the Data Centre

In 2017, we carried out a small pilot scheme on rare plant monitoring. Where experienced recorders had submitted recent casual records of rare plants to the Centre, they were asked to visit their rare plant population once a year during its flowering period and to count the total number of individuals present. The response to the scheme from the small number of recorders contacted has been overwhelming positive. In 2017 we received data on 36 rare plant populations. If you are aware of a rare plant near you and would like to take part in the scheme in 2018 please get in touch.



Consider joining the BSBI

Since 1836, the BSBI has been promoting the study, understanding and enjoyment of British and Irish botany. They are dedicated to supporting all botanists - beginner or expert, amateur or professional - as they identify, record and map what grows where.

The BSBI is very active in Ireland and runs workshops and field meetings for its members where you can go along and learn more about Ireland's plants

<http://bsbi.org/ireland>