

SPRING FLOWERING PLANTS 2018



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

FAST FACTS 2018

2,380

That's the total number of records that were submitted to the project in 2018

331

That's the number of individual recorders who submitted data to the project in 2018

31

That's how many counties we received records from in 2018

Thank you

Huge thanks to all of you who have provided data on spring flowering plants in 2018.

Number of records submitted by species and by county in 2018

Scientific name	Common name	Number of records
<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser Celandine	410
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose	352
<i>Petasites fragrans</i>	Winter Heliotrope	326
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	193
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower	187
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet	172
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies	158
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	158
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel	120
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	107
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons	92
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early-purple Orchid	57
<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>	Toothwort	25
<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	Early Dog-violet	23

County	Number of records
Wexford	283
Kerry	240
Offaly	206
Cork	176
Donegal	143
Dublin	141
Clare	133
Galway	128
Limerick	114
Wicklow	103
Kildare	87
Kilkenny	82
Mayo	69
Tipperary	57
Louth	55
Monaghan	54
Waterford	44
Westmeath	42
Roscommon	38
Antrim	37
Laois	35
Sligo	22
Carlow	20
Meath	17
Armagh	13
Leitrim	12
Cavan	11
Down	8
Longford	7
Fermanagh	2
Derry	1



Map showing the distribution of all records of the 14 spring flowering plant species submitted in 2018

Top recorders

Those who submitted the most records of these 14 species in 2018 are: Mary Mahony, Carol Gilroy, Margaret Cahill & Zoe Devlin.

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 2019

In collaboration with the BSBI, we hope to run the project again in 2019. We are currently considering 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 began 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 has been overwhelming positive. In 2017 we received data on 36 rare plant populations. This increased to 108 populations in 2018. For more information see: <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/vascular-plants/plant-monitoring-scheme/>



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>