



Pollinator Symposium

Waterford Institute of Technology, Cork Road

17th February 2015

Introducing the draft All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020

Programme

9:30-10:00	Registration
10:00-10:05	Welcome
10:05-11:00	Keynote address – putting pollinators in a global context (Rob Paxton, University of Halle)
11:00-11:30	Introduction to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 (Úna FitzPatrick, Data Centre)
11:30-11:45	Coffee break
11:45-12:00	Initiatives to help farmland become more pollinator friendly (Jerome Walsh, DAFM)
12:00-12:15	Helping pollinators – a farmer's perspective (Helen Harris, Farmer)
12:15-12:30	Saving Magnificent Meadows in N. Ireland (Conor McKinney, Ulster Wildlife)
12:30-12:45	Making roadside verges pollinator friendly - Don't Mow Let it Grow (Melina Quinn, NIEA)
12:45-13:00	Discussion
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:30	How can we raise awareness? (Veronica Santorum, Limerick's Buzzing)
14:30-15:00	Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers (John McMullan, Beekeeper)
15:00-15:20	Making sure we're doing the right thing (Jane Stout, TCD)
15:20-15:40	Collecting evidence to track change and measure success (Tomás Murray, Data Centre)
15:40-16:30	General discussion and summing up – moving forward with the All-Ireland Plan

Introducing the draft All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020

Irish pollinators are in decline. The problem is serious and requires immediate attention to ensure the sustainability of our food, avoid additional economic impact on the agricultural sector, and protect the health of the environment.

An All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 is currently being developed. It will provide an important framework to bring together pollinator initiatives across the island of Ireland, and is the start of a process by which we can collectively take positive steps to protect Irish pollinators and the service they provide into the future.

It is a shared plan of action. By working together we can collectively take steps to reverse pollinator losses and help restore populations to healthy levels. Over the next five years this plan will build a solid foundation to bring about a landscape where pollinators can flourish. Whether you own a farm, a window box, or manage a park everyone has a role to play.

The draft plan is being developed by a 15 member steering group, representative of key stakeholders. It will be available online for consultation at the end of January 2015: <http://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/>

The draft plan outlines actions necessary to protect Irish pollinators and the service they provide under a number of key areas:

- Making Ireland pollinator friendly (farmland, public land & private land)
- Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them
- Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers
- Making sure we're doing the right thing
- Collecting evidence to track change and measure success

We hope that as many of you as possible will have a look at the draft plan and provide your feedback, so that when it is published later in the year it will be as constructive and positive a document for Irish pollinators as possible.

To introduce the plan and provide a forum where you can come along, hear more information, and take part in discussions we are having a one-day pollinator symposium on the 17th February at Waterford Institute of Technology. This will be an informal day where a number of speakers will outline elements of the plan and there will be discussion on ways in which we can move forward on specific actions. The event is open to all, and it is hoped that anyone with an interest in Irish pollinators and their conservation will attend.

The key note address will be given by Prof Rob Paxton. Rob is an internationally recognised bee expert who is involved in research on social evolution, host-parasite coevolution and pollination. He is a pollinator expert on the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and is involved in the UK Insect Pollinators Initiative. Rob is currently Head of General Zoology at the University of Halle but previously worked in Queen's University Belfast, during which time he was instrumental in pushing forward the pollinator agenda in Ireland.

You can book online. There is a charge of €10 to cover lunch <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/events/>