

# Garden Butterfly Monitoring Scheme



## Instructions

The Garden Butterfly Monitoring scheme is a new survey to monitoring butterfly numbers that occur in gardens. Participants are asked to count the maximum number of butterflies seen in their garden over a 15-minute period. The 15-minute count can be from a fixed location in the garden, or if you have a larger garden it can be along a fixed route around the garden.

It is important that whatever count method you pick, it needs to be repeated every time.

1. Chose a sunny day when the temperature is at least 15 °C.
2. Set your watch or stopwatch to count for precisely 15 minutes.
3. Note the butterfly species you see, and the maximum number of each species seen during the 15-minute count. Try not to count the same butterfly twice.
4. Please try to take at least one count each week, but more frequent counts are also allowed if weather conditions are suitable.
5. Submit the details of the count on <https://surveys.biodiversityireland.ie/>
6. This scheme only relates to 20 species that most commonly occur in gardens. If you are fortunate to record any of Ireland's other butterfly species in your garden, please submit details of these through Ireland's Citizen Science Portal <https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/>

Anyone with a garden, no matter how small or large, can participate.

### Register your garden

To participate your garden must first be registered on <https://surveys.biodiversityireland.ie/> . This needs only to be done once.

Registration involves marking the location of your garden on a map and providing some details of the location of garden, its size and some of its main features.

Full details of how to register a site can be downloaded from the Garden Butterfly Monitoring Scheme webpage.