

Spring Flowering Plants Project 2020

National
Biodiversity
Data Centre



A Heritage Council Programme



Botanical
Society of
Britain &
Ireland

What is it?

This project is a joint initiative between the BSBI and the National Biodiversity Data Centre which was kicked off in 2017 and comprises an agreement between both parties to target 16 easily identifiable spring flowers for recording, along with the provision of a special on-line recording form specifically for the project.

Not only does it encourage people to record their observations of early-flowering species that can be otherwise lacking in data but like all recording, is valuable as it contributes to furthering plant conservation in Ireland. Many of the spring flowers which have been chosen for the project are very distinctive, making it a good way for those new to recording to get involved.

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 and widespread, making it a good way for those new to recording to get involved.



Spring flowering plant species in 2020:

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

Fast Facts!

Spring Flowering Plants Project 2020:

16 Species – Easily identifiable and relatively widespread, includes both native and non-native species

4225 Records – The total number of records submitted in 2020 (as of November 2020).

830 Recorders – Total number of individual recorders who submitted records for the chosen species.

32 Counties – Records were received from every county in the island of Ireland.

Species Name	Records submitted
Three Cornered Garlic (<i>Allium triquetrum</i>)	135
Wild Garlic/Ramsons (<i>Allium ursinum</i>)	126
Wood Anemone (<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>)	216
Lords-and-Ladies (<i>Arum maculatum</i>)	294
Cuckooflower (<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>)	454
Bluebells (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>)	367
Toothwort (<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>)	24
Early-Purple Orchid (<i>Orchis mascula</i>)	122
Wood Sorrel (<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>)	167
Winter Heliotrope (<i>Petasites pyrenaicus</i>)	196
Cowslip (<i>Primula veris</i>)	329
Primrose (<i>Primula vulgaris</i>)	596
Lesser Celandine (<i>Ficaria verna</i>)	410
Coltsfoot (<i>Tussilago farfara</i>)	248
Early Dog-Violet (<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>)	144
Common Dog-Violet (<i>Viola riviniana</i>)	397

County	Spring Flowering Plant Records Submitted 2020
Antrim	85
Armagh	21
Carlow	229
Cavan	55
Clare	236
Cork	365
Derry	5
Donegal	183
Down	39
Dublin	418
Fermanagh	15
Galway	221
Kerry	244
Kildare	371
Kilkenny	145
Laois	121
Leitrim	39
Limerick	143
Longford	11
Louth	77
Mayo	108
Meath	68
Monaghan	26
Offaly	199
Roscommon	36
Sligo	58
Tipperary	50
Tyrone	19
Waterford	151
Westmeath	144
Wexford	205
Wicklow	138

Additional Plant Species for 2021:

Spring Gentian (*Gentiana verna*)

Opposite-Leaved Golden-Saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*)

Common Whitlowgrass (*Erophila verna*)

Alexanders (*Smyrniium olusatrum*)





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. 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.

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.

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A massive thank you to everyone who contributed records to the Spring Flowering Plants Project in 2020, we look forward to your participation again in 2021.