

Spring Flowers Project Newsletter – 2026

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. The number of species increased to 16 in 2020 with an additional 4 being added in 2021 bringing the overall total to 20 species.

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 Flowers Project “Spotter Sheets”

Taking feedback from previous years, we developed “Spotter Sheets” for the chosen Spring Flowers Project species. These are freely available to download at the following link and are available in both Irish and English:



The image shows a 'Spring Flowers Project Spotter Sheet' designed for field use. It features a grid of 28 small photographs of various spring flowers, each with a corresponding name and a small checkbox for recording sightings. The species included are: Bluebell, Common Dog-violet, Early Dog-violet, Lesser Celandine, Cuckooflower, Three-cornered Garlic, Opposite-leaved Golden-castrope, Common Whitegrass, Wood Sorrel, Wood Anemone, Primrose, Cowslip, Wild Garlic, Coltsfoot, Alexanders, Winter Heliotrope, Spring Scilla, Toothwort, Early purple Orchid, and Lady's Slipper. The sheet is branded with the National Biodiversity Data Centre logo and the Spring Flowers Project logo. At the bottom, there is a text box providing instructions on how to submit sightings and share photos on social media.

Spring Flowers Project Spotter Sheet

Tick the box for the species you see

National Biodiversity Data Centre
A Heritage Council Programme

SPRING FLOWERS PROJECT

Bluebell Common Dog-violet Early Dog-violet Lesser Celandine Cuckooflower Three-cornered Garlic Opposite-leaved Golden-castrope Common Whitegrass

Wood Sorrel Wood Anemone Primrose Cowslip Wild Garlic Coltsfoot Alexanders Winter Heliotrope

Spring Scilla Toothwort Early purple Orchid Lady's Slipper

Once you are confident of your identification, you can submit your sightings through the dedicated Spring Flowers Project recording form on Ireland's Citizen Science Portal: records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/spring-flowers

Share your photos of the above species on social media using #SpringFlowersProject

For more details on the Spring Flowers Project and other recording schemes please visit www.biodiversityireland.ie

[Irish Language Version](#)

[English Language Version](#)

Spring Flowers Project 2026 Statistics

The table below show the number of records for each species in the Spring Flowers Project.

Spring Flowers Project Species	Number of Records
Lesser Celandine	401
Primrose	320
Bluebell	233
Cuckooflower	230
Common Dog-violet	183
Wood Anemone	176
Winter Heliotrope	156
Coltsfoot	142
Cowslip	142
Lords-and-Ladies	141
Three-cornered Garlic	137
Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage	93
Alexanders	91
Wood-sorrel	86
Ramsons	80
Early Dog-violet	79
Early-purple Orchid	64
Toothwort	31
Common Whitlowgrass	24
Spring Gentian	13

A total of **2,758** records from recorders from all 32 counties have been submitted for our Spring Flowers Project species.

What happens to the data?

Once all of the data is fully validated, it is loaded into the National Vascular Plant database held by the National Biodiversity Data Centre and made available through 'Biodiversity Maps' – <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/> – The majority of these records from Q1 have already been validated and should appear on Biodiversity Maps. Records from Q2 will be process in the coming months.

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.



#SpringFlowersProject
recording scheme