

Spring Flowers Project 2021 Newsletter



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 2021 Statistics

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

Species Name	Records
Lesser Celandine	858
Primrose	776
Cuckooflower	527
Bluebell	458
Common Dog-Violet	438
Wood Anemone	340
Lords-and-Ladies	309
Cowslip	273
Coltsfoot	253
Wood-Sorrel	227
Winter Heliotrope	225
Three-cornered Garlic	203
Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage	160
Ramsons	157
Early Dog-Violet	149
Early-purple Orchid	139
Alexanders	127
Spring Gentian	46
Toothwort	42
Common Whitlowgrass	33
Total	5740

Additional Plant Species in 2021:

Spring Gentian (*Gentiana verna*)

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

Common Whitlowgrass (*Erophila verna*)

Alexanders (*Smyrniurn olusatrum*)

The table below shows the rate of recording throughout each County.



County	Records
Cork	438
Dublin	435
Clare	405
Kerry	353
Galway	351
Donegal	340
Meath	305
Kildare	298
Antrim	220
Kilkenny	217
Waterford	212
Wexford	197
Wicklow	188
Offaly	157
Cavan	148
Monaghan	145
Limerick	144
Mayo	139
Carlow	137
Louth	120
Westmeath	111
Tipperary	108
Laois	104
Sligo	97
Leitrim	93
Down	83
Roscommon	50
Armagh	49
Fermanagh	32
Longford	23
Tyrone	21
Derry	20
Total	5740

Records were submitted from all 32 counties.

We also has 985 individual recorders take part in the project, which is an additional 155 recorders when compared to 2020.



The above map of Ireland show the distribution of all records for Spring Flowers Project species through Ireland's Citizen Science Portal (<https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/>)

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.

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