

The National Biodiversity Data Centre has set a challenge for farmers to record some of the amazing biodiversity found on your farm during the year. We have 40 species for you to record.

Are you up for the challenge?

Species: Green Shieldbug

Scientific Name: *Palomena prasina*

Irish name: Fríd Scéithe ghlas

Group

1 of 18 species of shieldbugs and other related bugs in Ireland.

Check out our Shieldbugs of Ireland poster:

<https://biodiversityireland.ie/app/uploads/2021/06/NBDC-Shieldbug-Poster-2019-WEB.pdf>

How common on farms

Biodiversity surveys were carried out across 40 farms within the National Biodiversity Data Centre's 'Protecting Farmland Pollinators' EIP project (<https://biodiversityireland.ie/projects/protecting-farmland-pollinators/>). The 40 farms were chosen to reflect farms of differing types and intensity levels. The Green Shieldbug was recorded as present on the 40 farms.



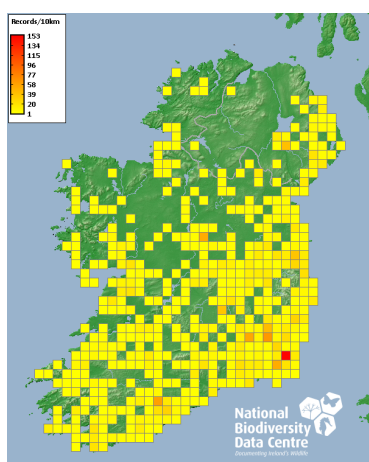
Green Shieldbug. Note: Uniformly green. Last 2 segments of the antennae are red and black. Shoulders rounded.

Identification Tips

- Flat, shield shaped bug, the adult is 12-13mm in size.
- Uniformly green, with exception to where the wings are folded.
- Last 2 segments of the antennae are red and black.
- Shoulders are rounded.
- Some adults turn a bronze-brown colour closer to winter.

Distribution

Widespread and common. Largely absent from northern most parts, but is possibly extending its range into these areas.



Source: The Green Shieldbug records as viewed on Biodiversity Maps, 2023.

Biodiversity Tip No. 11 Hedgerow as homes for insects.

Hedgerows are a great habitat for insects, like the Green Shieldbug.

They supply food, shelter, protection and a corridor to move around the landscape.



Conservation Status

Shieldbugs are some of Ireland's most familiar insects. They belong to the Hemiptera group or 'True bugs', which also includes Pond skaters, Water scorpions, Aphids and Flower bugs. Their conservation status has not been assessed in Ireland.

They have piercing mouth parts, known as a rostrum, for sucking the juices from either plants or animals depending on the species.

Shieldbugs are sometimes known as 'stinkbugs' thanks to the smelly liquid they excrete to put off hungry predators.

Management Tips

Food for the Green Shieldbug:

The adults do not damage the plants as they draw sap.

On the farm:

- Encourage or plant Hazel and other deciduous trees and shrubs.

Hibernation sites:

- Leave some grass tussocks and leaf litter for hibernating and overwintering shieldbugs.



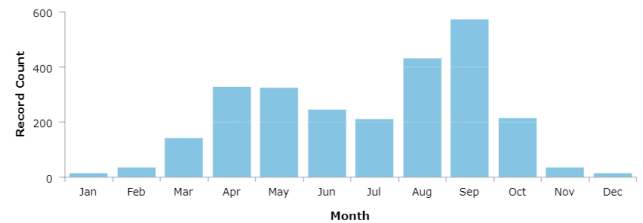
Green Shieldbug closer to winter, when some adults turn a bronze-brown colour, the perfect camouflage for surviving winter.

When?

Adults can be found throughout the year. Nymphs occur from June to October.

The earliest it has been recorded in Ireland is 1 January (2019).

Records per month across all datasets



National Biodiversity Data Centre, Ireland, Green Shieldbug, image, accessed May 2023, <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Species/84739>

Where on the farm?

Found in hedgerows, woodland edges and gardens preferring sunny sites with scrub, where it feeds on a wide range of leaves.

Value

- Shieldbugs are part of the farm ecosystem.
- They may be predated by birds and spiders, but they do give off a smell to deter predation.



A mating pair of Green Shieldbug.

Further Info

The Green shieldbug has an annual lifecycle, overwintering as an adult which then mate and lay eggs the following year.

The nymphs grow in a series of moults, typically five, referred to as instars. Each become more adult-like until a final moult produces the next adult generation.



Adults can be seen in spring/early summer and late summer/autumn and as nymphs from early to late summer.

Hibernating bugs are generally hard to find, and it's best to leave them undisturbed.

Similar species

May be confused with the Gorse Shieldbug, it is peppered with dark spots, whereas the Green Shieldbug is finely punctured and looks more uniform and brighter green.

Also the Southern Green Shieldbug, a non-native species. This species has paler wings than the Green Shieldbug.

Affected by a change in climate?

Extended range, as the Green Shieldbug is moving northwards.

Need some help with identification?

Just drop us a line, we'll be happy to help:

pollinators@biodiversityireland.ie

Useful Links

Shieldbugs of Ireland poster:

<https://biodiversityireland.ie/app/uploads/2021/06/NBDC-Shieldbug-Poster-2019-WEB.pdf>

A handy Shieldbug identification swatch can be purchased here, €5

<https://shop.biodiversityireland.ie/products/shieldbug-swatch?pos=1&sid=22727cbe5&ss=r>

Record here

Your records will help us build a picture of farmland biodiversity in Ireland. If you're happy with your identification, you can submit your record.

- On our website at the National Biodiversity Data Centre: <https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/biodiversity-on-your-farm#7/53.455/-8.016>

or

- You could also download our free smart phone App for recording in the field

Smart phone App:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=nbdc.mobile.biodiversity>

Apple App:

<https://apps.apple.com/ie/app/biodiversity-data-capture/id906361120>

The Farmland Pollinator Officer post is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine as



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta
agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife Service

The National Biodiversity Data Centre is a Company Limited by Guarantee. Register Number: 730718.