

This week Ireland’s Classic Hits Radio looked at the importance of Bees for Bio-Diversity

**Did you know…**

* Bee’s produce six hive products, pollen, honey, beeswax, royal jelly, propolis and venom
* There are 101 native Irish bee strains, the honeybee, 21 species of bumblebee and 78 species of solitary bee
* The Irish native honey bee is called the *Apis mellifera mellifera*

**Why are Bee’s so important?**

* Bee’s help produce 1/3 of the Worlds food supply
* Help Prevent Soil Erosion
* And are key pollinators for over 90% of flowering plant species across the world
* Without bee’s humans would lose so many nutritious foods – just think of a world without apples, raspberries or tomatoes!
* The decline in bee populations across the world alerts us to the toxic track we are on

**What can I do to help stop the decline in the bee population?**

* Don’t mow it – let it grow! Leave some space in your garden for a wild patch with dandelions, clover and other native plants to flower. Bee’s love them!
* Plant some native bee – friendly trees. If you’re planting tree’s think about Willow, Hawthorn, Rowan or Holly. They support lots of wildlife as they blossom in springtime and a vital source of food for pollinators
* Avoid using insecticide, fungicide or herbicides in your garden. These are pollinator killers!
* Only sow wildflower seed mixes that are Irish native flowers. A lot of wildflowers you can buy have non native/ invasive species

**Here’s a few websites if you want to know more !**

[www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie) – the All Ireland Pollinator Plan

[www.nihbs.org](http://www.nihbs.org) – the Native Irish Honey Bee Society

[www.ibcp.ie](http://www.ibcp.ie) – the Irish Bee conservation project

