



Dublin Rd, Shanganagh



Ardglas, Dundrum



Dargle Valley, Rathfarnham

10 roadside verge flowers that support high numbers of invertebrates are:

1. **Bird's-foot trefoil** - *Lotus corniculatus*
2. **Yarrow** - *Achillea millefolium*
3. **Red clover** - *Trifolium pratense*
4. **Dandelion** - *Taraxacum officinale*
5. **Ragwort** - *Senecio jacobaea*
6. **Lady's bedstraw** - *Galium verum*
7. **White clover** - *Trifolium repens*
8. **Meadowsweet** - *Filipendula ulmaria*
9. **Oxeye daisy** - *Leucanthemum vulgare*
10. **Wild mustard** - *Sinapsis arvensis*

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In 2018 **DLR** trialled **Nature Wildlife Areas** throughout the county, these sampled many different kinds of grassed areas within the councils' management such as pollinator verges, natural habitat corridors through open spaces and park meadows. In 2019 we have expanded the uncut areas and changed the grass maintenance regime; this is a programme which has been brought in throughout the DLR County and in many public areas throughout Ireland.

A full list of Nature wildlife areas can be found on DLR's biodiversity webpages:

www.dlrcoco.ie/en/heritage/biodiversity/nature-wildlife-areas

The grass in these areas within open spaces will be cut twice a year, in June and again in September or October. However maintenance of the rest of the grass areas remains the same (generally cut every 2 weeks between Mar and Oct/Nov depending on weather). Litter picking is carried out every time grass maintenance occurs in all areas of the green.



Why so slow to mow!

We are starting to encourage native wildflowers back into the grass habitat. This takes time as they do not regenerate over one season but it may take several seasons. We would greatly encourage residents to get involved and track changes in different flora that you see in your 'Wild areas' this year and those that start to appear in the following years!

Wildlife and Pollinator Declines!

These approaches are being adopted, in support of our wildlife and also the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. By creating these places for our wildlife and creating connections and wildlife corridors to the wider landscape our wildlife creatures can move safely from place to place in the safety of cover and a source of food. Did you know that in Ireland more than 90 per cent of protected habitats are classified as "poor" or "inadequate" in their current condition (and that's to say nothing of our unprotected habitats). Also, on average 20% of the species that have been assessed are considered to be at risk of extinction in Ireland.

Reduced Chemical Usage!

DLR reduced chemical pesticide use throughout 2018 and continues to do so during 2019. Spraying encourages the development of vigorous productive vegetation, and a vicious cycle of spraying ensues to control the same weeds again and again. We will use mechanical and other means of control where feasible to reduce weeds; but we will not spray areas such as: base of walls, railings, signs, trees, etc. This will help minimise the negative impact pesticides have on pollinators and wildlife. We will still use some chemicals when necessary, for e.g. on invasive species, but in a sustainable way.

Plan of Actions!

Irish pollinators are in decline and this requires immediate attention to protect the health of the environment. This is a shared plan of action; where we can all work together to create a landscape where pollinators can flourish. This can occur through the plans 5 main objectives.

1. Making Ireland pollinator friendly: focusing on actions that can be taken on farmland, public land and private land to create flower-rich habitats.
2. Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them.
3. Supporting beekeepers and growers
4. Expanding our knowledge on pollinators and pollination services
5. Collecting evidence to track changes in pollinator populations and locations.

Where ever you see
these signs you will know
it's a Nature Wildlife Area.

