

Hedgerows

Irish hedgerows are full of flora and fauna **if** well managed. They are of value to pollinators **only if** flowers are present. A variety of hedgerow types is desirable on every farm.



When cutting hedgerows

- Aim for a diversity of flowering plants - allow mature trees, new saplings and climbers grow and flower
- Allow wildflowers grow at the base
- Side trim to a triangular shape with a wide base
- Leave the peak on the hedge as high as possible
- Allow individual thorn trees mature at irregular intervals



How Farmers can help Bees



J. Breen



T. Cuffe

➤ Why are bees important?

- Pollination of food crops: Oilseed rape, peas, beans, apples, soft fruit
- Pollination of wildflowers, trees
- Green image: used to promote Irish food
- Production of honey

➤ Why bees are declining?

- Reduction in wildflowers: Pollen provides protein and nectar provides carbohydrate
- Lack of continuity of flowering plants: Bees require food all year round, requiring a diversity of flowering plants in the landscape
- Less nesting sites

	Trees / Shrubs	Climbers	Wildflowers	
January ↑	Hazel Willow Blackthorn Holly Crab apple		Primrose Dandelion Vetches Field scabious	Bluebell Clover Thistles Yellow rattle
December ↓	Whitethorn Gorse / furze / whins	Dog rose Honeysuckle Blackberry Ivy	Hawbits Heather	Knapweed Willowherbs



Honeysuckle/Woodbine



Whitethorn



Blackberry



Primrose

➤ How farmers can help bees

Allow space for a diversity of wildflowers to grow and flower

Field Margins:

- Fence off from livestock
- Cut or graze after flowering
- Do not spray
- Do not fertilise

Non farmed areas -

around the farmyard, in field corners, along farm roadways

- Allow flowering plants flower
- Do not spray
- Do not cut until after flowering

Spraying insecticides in tillage crops

- Spray early morning and late evening when honey bees are less active
- Notify local beekeepers



Variation in honey depending on food source for honey bees.
Left to right: Multifloral Honey, Ling (*Calluna vulgaris*) Honey and Bell (*Erica cineria*) Heather Honey