#### 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

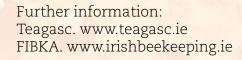
- Aim for a diversity of flowering plants allow mature trees, new saplings and climbers grow and flower
- Allow wildflowers grow at the base
- Side trim to a triangular shape with a wide base
- Leave the peak on the hedge as high as possible
- Allow individual thorn trees mature at irregular intervals











# **How Farmers** can help Bees













### 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	
Hazel Willow Blackthorn Holly Crab apple Whitethorn Gorse / furze / whins	Dog rose Honeysuckle Blackberry Ivy	Primrose Dandelion Vetches Field scabious Hawbits Heather	Bluebell Clover Thistles Yellow rattle Knapweed Willowherbs



Honevsuckle/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