

BEE

There are 100 different bee species in Ireland: the honeybee, 21 species of bumblebee, and 78 species of solitary bee.

Bumblebees don't make honey, instead they store small amounts of nectar in their nests to use in emergencies, so they are never far from running out of food. They can travel up to 5 km to find food, but usually stay within about 1 km of their nest. Bumblebees are easy to recognise by their round, furry bodies and bold black and yellow stripes.



Honeybees live in hives and can be found across Ireland wherever flowers grow. They feed on nectar from plants like clover, hawthorn, ivy, dandelions and bramble. Worker bees collect pollen on their specially adapted back legs.



Solitary bees live alone! They can look like small black ants with wings, while others have black and yellow stripes like wasps. They nest in different ways; leafcutter bees cut circles from leaves to line nests, while others live in hollow twigs or trees. You'll often find them in gardens and wildflower areas, feeding on nectar and pollen in sunny spots.

Activities you can try:

- Get involved with Citizen Science, by carrying out a FIT count. This is a really simple way to get involved in wildlife monitoring without needing to be able to identify one kind of bee from another. Learn how to try it [HERE](#).
- Find out more about the Honeybee from our Habitat Hero resources [HERE](#).
- Learn how to make an origami bee in only a few simple steps [HERE](#)