



National
Biodiversity
Data Centre



A Heritage Council Programme

Oisín Duffy

*Surveys and Records
Officer*

*National Biodiversity
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Spring Flowering Plants Project

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Botanical
Society of
Britain &
Ireland

This project is a joint pilot initiative between the BSBI and the Data Centre which was kicked off in 2017, and comprises an agreement between both parties to target 20 easily identifiable spring flowers for recording, along with the provision of a special on-line recording form specifically for the project

- The information gathered through the Spring Flowering Plants Project is important as it allows us to update distribution maps for these species as well as other features such as flowering times.
- It is an ideal project for all recorders and easily accessible for beginners. The 20 species chosen for the project are easy to identify and are generally in flower before many other plants.
- Identification guides, species profiles and regular posts on our Social Media can help recorders with species identification.
- It's easy to submit your records through Ireland's Citizen Science Portal



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20 easily identifiable Spring Flowers



Bluebells
(*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)
Coinnle corra

Flowers April – May
Distinctive blue/purple flower
which carpets woodland floor.
Similar species: Spanish Bluebell



Common Dog-Violet
(*Viola riviniana*)
Fanaigse

Flowers April – June
Distinctive violet blue flower
found along woodlands and
banks. White notched spur.
Similar species: Early Dog-Violet



Early-Purple Orchid
(*Orchis mascula*)
Magairlín meidhreach

Flowers April – June
Upright, purple, middle lobe whitish
with darker markings, spur pointing
upwards. Flowers earlier than most
other orchids.
Similar species: Green-winged Orchid



Early Dog-Violet
(*Viola reichenbachiana*)
Sailchuach luath

Flowers April – June
Woodlands and hedgerows.
Generally a unnotched purple
spur.
Similar species: Common Dog-
Violet



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20 easily identifiable Spring Flowers



Wild Garlic/Ramsons
(*Allium ursinum*)
Creamh

Flowers April – May
Distinctive white star shaped flower,
plant carpets woodland floor.
Similar species: Three-Cornered Garlic



Primrose
(*Primula vulgaris*)
Sabhaircín

Flowers March – May
Five petalled cream flowers with
a yellow centre. Found along
banks, woodland and roadsides.



Three-Cornered Garlic
(*Allium triquetrum*)
Creamh

Flowers February – June
White bell-shaped drooping flower,
stems are three-sided. Found along
roadsides, hedgerows and banks.
Similar species: Wild Garlic/Ramsons



Cowslip
(*Primula veris*)
Bainne Bó Bleachtáin

Flowers April – May
Distinctive yellow flowers with
orange markings near the
centre, flowers facing one side.

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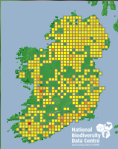
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20 easily identifiable Spring Flowers



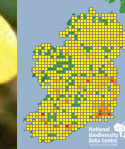
Wood Anemone
(*Anemone nemorosa*)
Lus na Gaoithe

Flowers March – May
Distinctive six-petalled flower, forms
carpets along the woodland floor.



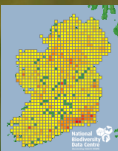
Lesser Celandine
(*Ficaria verna*)
Gran Arcain

Flowers January – May
One of the earliest flowering species
on our list. Yellow flowers with 8-12
petals. Found along laneways, banks,
roadsides.



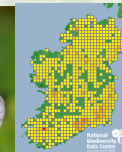
Cuckooflower/Lady's Smock
(*Cardamine pratensis*)
Biolar gréagháin

Flowers April – June
Pale pink – white four-petalled flowers.
Plant tall and upright.
Preference for wet/damp habitats but
can also be found in gardens.



Wood Sorrel
(*Oxalis acetosella*)
Seamsóg

Flowers April – June
White 5-petalled flowers
with purple veins. Distinctive
“trifoliate” leaves (like a
Shamrock).



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20 easily identifiable Spring Flowers



Toothwort
(*Lathraea squamaria*)
Slánú fiacal



Flowers April – May
An unusual looking plant which parasitises the roots of trees.
White/Pink one-sided tubular flowers.



Lords and Ladies/Cuckoo Pint
(*Arum maculatum*)
Cluas chaoin

Flowers April – May
Distinctive pale green spathe with purple brown spadix.
Leaves are glossy, green and arrow shaped.



Winter Heliotrope
(*Petasites pyrenaicus*)
Plúr na gréine

Flowers November – March
A non-native species which can quickly take over laneways and roadsides.
Flowers are white/purple and sweet smelling. Leaves are kidney shaped.
Similar Species: Butterbur



Coltsfoot
(*Tussilago farfara*)
Sponc

Flowers February – April
A common species with a central disc floret surrounded by many ray florets. Flowers before leaves appear.
Roadsides/Wasteground

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20 easily identifiable Spring Flowers (New Additions)



Spring Gentian
(*Gentiana verna*)
Ceadharlach Bealtaine

Flowers April – June
One of the rarer species on our project and is best known for its association with the Burren. Bright blue five-petalled flowers.



Common Whitlowgrass
(*Erophila verna*)
Bosán anagair

Flowers February – May
One of the smallest species on our list. Small white flowers with four deeply divided petals. Bare ground, gravelly areas.



Alexanders
(*Smyrniolus atrum*)
Lusrán grándubh

Flowers February – June
Very early flowering, flowers green/yellow in umbels. Leaves dark green and glossy. Plant also has a distinctive smell.



Opposite-Leaved Golden-Saxifrage
(*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*)
Glóiris

Flowers March – July
Distinctive small, low growing plant which can carpet areas of damp shaded woodland.

How to take part

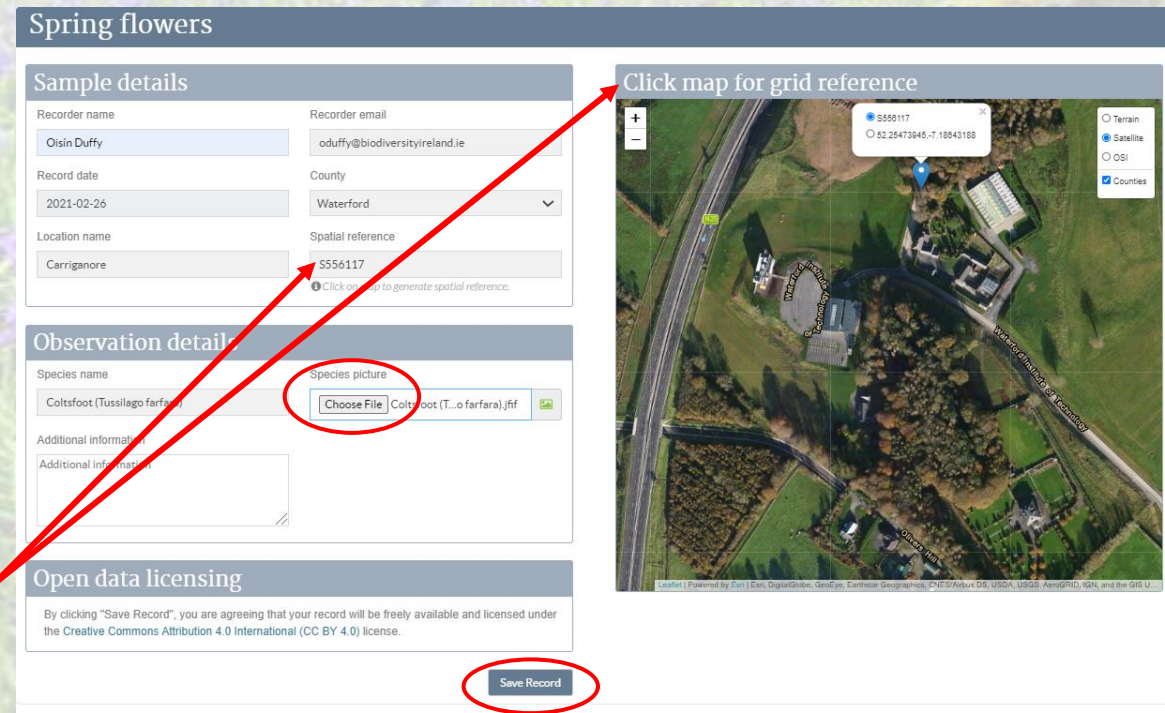
- Go out and look for Spring Flowers
- Once you're happy with their identification, please go to Ireland's Citizen Science Portal (<https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/>)
- Go to the "Spring Flowers" recording form: (<https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/spring-flowers>)
- Fill in the online recording form for "Spring Flowers"

This Requires:

- Who – Your Name and E-Mail Address
- When – The Date you made your observation
- Where – The Location Name, County and Spatial Reference
- What – The Species Name

Example:

- Who – Oisín Duffy (oduffy@biodiversityireland.ie)
- When – 2021/02/26 (26th of February 2021)
- Where – Carriganore, Waterford (Spatial reference got from map)
- What – Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*)



Spring flowers

Sample details

Recorder name	Recorder email
Oisín Duffy	oduffy@biodiversityireland.ie
Record date	County
2021-02-26	Waterford
Location name	Spatial reference
Carriganore	S556117

Click on map to generate spatial reference.

Observation details

Species name	Species picture
Coltsfoot (<i>Tussilago farfara</i>)	<input type="button" value="Choose File"/> Coltsfoot (<i>T...o farfara</i>).jff
Additional information	

Open data licensing

By clicking "Save Record", you are agreeing that your record will be freely available and licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) license.

Click map for grid reference

