

# Ballinahown Community newsletter

Spring 2025



## Promoting Biodiversity in Spring: A Season of Renewal and Action

As winter fades and nature awakens, spring offers the perfect opportunity to promote biodiversity — the rich variety of life on Earth, from plants and animals to fungi and microorganisms. Supporting biodiversity is not just about appreciating nature's beauty; it's about helping ecosystems thrive, which in turn supports clean air, water, and resilient food systems.

### top tips:

- 1. Plant native trees and shrubs.**  
Good trees and shrubs to plant include Hazel, Willow, Hawthorn, Wild Cherry, White-beam, Guelder-Rose, Elder.
- 2. Let Dandelions Grow.**  
Dandelion is the most important food plant for our insects in spring.
- 3. Introduce Biodiversity Friendly Mowing.**  
Cutting less often allows wildflowers to grow and provides important food for our insects, especially pollinators.



## Composting

Spring clean-up often means piles of leaves and plant material. Composting turns that waste into nutrient-rich soil while supporting microorganisms and decomposers essential for biodiversity.

**Click or scan the QR code to learn more on composting at home.**



## Cease or limit the use of pesticides.

Keep your garden wildlife friendly by tackling weeds with a hoe or with a sustainable homemade weed killer involving vinegar, salt and washing up liquid.

**Click or scan the QR code to learn how to make your own homemade weedkiller.**



Pesticides, herbicides, and synthetic fertilizers can harm beneficial insects and pollinators. Embrace organic gardening methods and integrated pest management to protect soil health and ecosystem balance.