



Volunteer role description

Role title: **Plant monitor**

Main purpose of the role: To identify plant species and monitor their life cycle so seed collections can be made at the appropriate time.

	Questions/Issues	Notes
1	<p>What? Identifying specimens <i>in situ</i> (may involve transportation and walking to difficult locations), checking plant progress throughout the season and keeping THS informed about their development so collections can be planned and carried out. Monitors should be able to send us a photo and short description by electronic means.</p>	
2	<p>When? We appreciate any hours volunteers can contribute, however, monitoring is time-sensitive. It needs to be reliably carried out frequently so collections can be planned and made at the right time.</p>	
3	<p>Where? Seed collections are carried out nation-wide. Volunteers can choose local sites or sites that are convenient for them to visit regularly during the life-cycle of the particular plant, for example, on a route of a regular walk or nearby location.</p>	
4	<p>With whom? Volunteers may choose to monitor sites alone or can work alongside other volunteers and THS staff. Plant monitors need to be in regular contact (phone, email or visiting the office) with THS staff.</p>	
5	<p>Support, supervision, training Volunteers will be given training in advance and staff</p>	

	will provide full support. This role requires initiative, a regular time commitment and self motivation.	
6	What the role offers volunteers This role offers full training in plant monitoring and recognising the life cycles of species. Volunteers will be part of a team working together to create Ireland's seed bank.	

Volunteer Specification

- This is a role that involves being out and about around sites nation-wide. Volunteers can choose where they'd like to help out and which collections they'd like to be involved with.
- The role can be physically demanding, depending on the nature/terrain of the site so a level of fitness is needed. Appropriate clothing and weather protection should be worn.
- We would like to encourage people who are lone working to carry a mobile phone or similar in case of emergency.
- Monitors will need to be proficient in plant identification. Backup identification is fully supported by THS staff.
- Monitoring visits will vary in duration depending on where specimens are and how easy they are to access. Plant monitor volunteers should be able to reliably commit to this amount of time on a regular basis, or keep THS informed if they become unavailable. Roles can be shared and volunteers (or staff) may choose to share the monitoring of particular plants.