



## 12.5 Ambient pollen concentration

**Project Name:** UNaLab (Grant Agreement no. 730052)

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Ambient pollen concentration	Green Space Management Air Quality
<b>Description and justification</b>	Urban green spaces frequently have a limited number of plant species, including a higher proportion of non-native species in comparison with rural areas (McKinney, 2002). The low species diversity in many urban areas is directly linked to the formation of concentrated pollen emission sources. In particular, large-scale use of a small number of roadside tree species results in production of large quantities of a single species of pollen. Areas of concentrated pollen may not be readily dispersed by air currents. Some studies indicate that urban citizens are 20% more likely to suffer airborne pollen allergies than people living in rural areas, largely due to the uniformity of green spaces, where a small number of species that

	have proved highly suited to urban environmental conditions are overwhelmingly used, and the interaction of pollen with air pollutants (Cariñanos & Casares-Porcel, 2011).
<b>Definition</b>	Number of grains of pollen per cubic metre of air (pollen grains/m <sup>3</sup> )
<b>Strengths and weaknesses</b>	+ The results are widely accepted and known to be consistent - The method of identifying and characterising trapped pollen and spores is time-consuming and requires considerable expertise
<b>Measurement procedure and tool</b>	The volumetric Hirst-type pollen and spore trap designed in 1952 remains one of the devices most commonly used for pollen and spore monitoring (Buters et al., 2018). The Hirst-type trap is standard in pollen monitoring networks in Europe. The Hirst-type pollen and spore trap uses a vacuum pump to continuously draw air at a known rate (e.g., 10 L/min). A wind vane attached to the sampler head ensures that the trap inlet is always facing the prevailing wind. Depending on the configuration of the trap, pollen and spores are captured on adhesive coated transparent plastic tape (Melinex) or on a microscope slide coated with an adhesive. Adhesive tapes are attached to a metal drum that rotates with time. Pollen traps can be fitted with a drum specific to a 24-h or a 7-day sampling period. At the conclusion of the sampling period, the tape with adhered pollen and spores is cut into pieces representing 24-h periods of time and mounted on a microscope slide. Where the pollen and spores are captured directly on a microscope slide, the slide must be changed every 24 h. These slides are examined by microscopy for counting and identification of pollen and spores.
<b>Scale of measurement</b>	Plot to neighbourhood scale
<b>Data source</b>	
<b>Required data</b>	Pollen measurement data
<b>Data input type</b>	Quantitative
<b>Data collection frequency</b>	Continuous collection with a 24 h or a 7-day sampling period
<b>Level of expertise required</b>	Moderate
<b>Synergies with other indicators</b>	Synergies with <i>Distribution of public green space</i> , <i>Accessibility of urban green spaces</i> , and <i>Proportion of</i>

	<i>natural area, and Availability and equitable distribution of blue-green space indicators</i>
<b>Connection with SDGs</b>	SDG 3 Good health and well-being, SDG 15 Life on land
<b>Opportunities for participatory data collection</b>	No opportunities identified
<b>Additional information</b>	
<b>References</b>	<p>Buters, J.T.M., Antunes, C., Galveias, A., Bergmann, K.C., Thibaudon, M., Galán, C. ... &amp; Oteros, J. (2018). Pollen and spore monitoring in the world. <i>Clinical and Translational Allergy</i>, 8, 9.</p> <p>Cariñanos, P., &amp; Casares-Porcel, M. (2011). Urban green zones and related pollen allergy: A review. Some guidelines for designing spaces with low allergy impact. <i>Landscape and Urban Planning</i>, 101(3), 205-214.</p> <p>McKinney, M. (2002). Urbanization, Biodiversity, and Conservation: The impacts of urbanization on native species are poorly studied, but educating a highly urbanized human population about these impacts can greatly improve species conservation in all ecosystems. <i>BioScience</i>, 52(10), 883-890.</p>

## 12.6 Trends in NOx and SOx emissions

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Trends in Emissions of NOx and SOx	Air Quality
<b>Description and justification</b>	<p>It is estimated that in the UK air pollution reduces overall life expectancy by seven to eight months, with estimated annual health costs of up to £20 billion. The impacts are higher on the most vulnerable, including lifelong impact on children.</p> <p>The predominant source of NOx in Europe is road transport and it is thought that half of emissions in Europe originate from this source; certainly the highest concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> are generally found close to busy roads in urban areas. In keeping with other local authorities across England and Wales, Liverpool and the wider city region is close to failing to meet the European Union (EU) air quality standard for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) which is measured as an annual</p>