

Recommended Plants for Pollinators & Beneficial Insects

California Southern Coast Region



Bumble bee¹ and monarch butterfly caterpillar² on woollypod milkweed. (Photographs by the Xerces Society / Stephanie McKnight¹ & Scott Hoffman Black².)

Plant Selection

The plants on this list are recommended for use in pollinator habitat restoration and enhancement projects in agricultural landscapes. These species have been selected because they are attractive to a diversity of different bee species, and provide pollen and nectar resources throughout the season, provided that a minimum of three different plant species from each blooming period (early, mid, and late season) are selected. A majority of plants recommended are native, drought tolerant, easy to establish, and don't serve as alternate hosts to crop pests or diseases.

Native Species for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	BLOOM	LIFE FORM	SUN	WATER	SOIL TEXTURE	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Common yarrow	MID	P F	☀	L	ANY	🦋🐛🌿🍷🚫🐇
<i>Arctostaphylos glauca</i>	Bigberry manzanita	EARLY	P W	☀	L	ANY	🦋🐛🌿🍷🚫🐇
<i>Asclepias eriocarpa</i>	Woollypod milkweed	MID	P F	☀	M	ANY	🦋🐛🌿🍷🚫🐇
<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	Narrowleaf milkweed	MID	P F	☀	M	ANY	🦋🐛🌿🍷🚫🐇
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Coyotebrush	LATE	P W	☀	L	ANY	🦋🐛🌿🍷🚫🐇
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> 'Pigeon Point'	Dwarf coyotebrush	LATE	P W	☀	L	ANY	🦋🐛🌿🍷🚫🐇
<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>	Oregon grape	EARLY	P W	☀	L	ANY	🦋🐛🌿🍷🚫🐇
<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Julia Phelps'	California lilac 'Julia Phelps'	EARLY	P W	☀	L	MEDIUM-COARSE	🦋🐛🌿🍷🚫🐇
<i>Clarkia amoena</i>	Farewell-to-spring	EARLY-MID	A F	☀	M	FINE-MEDIUM	🐛🍷🚫🐇
<i>Encelia californica</i>	California brittlebush	EARLY-MID	P W	☀	L-M	ANY	🦋🐛🌿🍷🚫🐇
<i>Epilobium canum</i>	California fuchsia	LATE	P F	☀	L	ANY	🐛🍷🚫🐇
<i>Eriogonum arborescens</i>	Island buckwheat	MID	P F	☀	L	MEDIUM	🍷🚫🐇
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat	MID	P F	☀	L	ANY	🐛🍷🚫🐇
<i>Eriogonum giganteum</i>	St. Catherine's lace	MID-LATE	P F	☀	L	ANY	🐛🍷🚫🐇
<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i>	Golden-yarrow	MID-LATE	P F	☀	M	ANY	🐛🍷🚫🐇
<i>Eriophyllum staechadifolium</i>	Seaside woolly sunflower	LATE	P F	☀	M	ANY	🐛🍷🚫🐇
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy	EARLY-MID	A, P F	☀	L	ANY	🐛🍷🚫🐇
<i>Gilia capitata</i>	Globe gilia	EARLY-MID	A F	☀	M	ANY	🍷🚫🐇

KEY

LIFE CYCLE—Annual; Biennial; Perennial

FORM—Forb; Woody; Grass

WATER NEEDS—Low; Medium; High

SUN

☀ Full sun

☀☀ Full sun—partial shade

☀☀☀ Partial shade

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

🦋 Monarch nectar plant

🐛 Larval host (butterfly, moth, specialist bee)

🍷 Attracts beneficial insects

🌿 Bumble bee plant

🏠 Nest site

🚫 Fire resistant

🐇 Deer resistant

Native Species for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects *continued*

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	BLOOM	LIFE FORM	SUN	WATER	SOIL TEXTURE	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
<i>Grindelia hirsutula</i>	Gumplant	MID-LATE	P F	☀	L	FINE-MEDIUM	🦋 🌱 🍷
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Common sunflower	MID-LATE	A F	☀	M	ANY	🦋 🌱 🍷 🌿 🍷
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon	EARLY-MID	P W	☀	L	ANY	🦋 🍷 🍷
<i>Layia platyglossa</i>	Common tidytips	EARLY	A F	☀	L	ANY	🌱
<i>Lotus scoparius</i>	Common deerweed	MID	P F	☀	L	ANY	🌱
<i>Lupinus bicolor</i>	Bicolor lupine	EARLY	A F	☀	M	ANY	🌱 🍷 🌿 🍷
<i>Lupinus densiflorus var. aureus</i>	Golden lupine	EARLY	A F	☀	L	ANY	🌱 🍷 🌿 🍷
<i>Lupinus formosus</i>	Summer lupine	MID	P F	☀	L	ANY	🌱 🍷 🌿 🍷
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deergrass	—	P G	☀	L-M	ANY	🍷 🌿 🍷
<i>Nemophila maculata</i>	Fivespot	EARLY	A F	☀	M	COARSE	🌱
<i>Nemophila menziesii</i>	Baby blue byes	EARLY	A F	☀	L	ANY	🌱 🍷
<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i>	Foothill penstemon	EARLY-MID	P F	☀	L	ANY	🌱 🌿 🍷 🍷
<i>Penstemon spectabilis</i>	Showy penstemon	EARLY-MID	P F	☀	L	MEDIUM-COARSE	🌱 🌿 🍷 🍷
<i>Peritoma arborea var. arborea</i>	Bladderpod	EARLY	P W	☀	L	ANY	🦋 🌱
<i>Phacelia californica</i>	California phacelia	MID	P F	☀	L	FINE-MEDIUM	🌱 🍷 🌿
<i>Phacelia imbricata</i>	Imbricate phacelia	MID	P F	☀	L	ANY	🌱
<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	California buckthorn	EARLY	P W	☀	L	ANY	🌱 🍷 🍷 🍷
<i>Rosa californica</i>	California wildrose	EARLY-MID	P W	☀	M	MEDIUM	🌱 🍷 🌿 🍷 🍷
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Cleveland sage	MID-LATE	P F	☀	L	MEDIUM-COARSE	🦋 🍷
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	Purple sage	EARLY-MID	P F	☀	L	ANY	🦋 🌱 🍷
<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	Black sage	MID-LATE	P F	☀	L	ANY	🦋 🌱 🍷
<i>Solidago velutina ssp. californica</i>	California goldenrod	MID-LATE	P F	☀	M	ANY	🦋 🌱 🍷 🌿 🍷
<i>Trichostema lanatum</i>	Blue curls	LATE	P W	☀	L	ANY	🦋 🌱

KEY	LIFE CYCLE —Annual; Biennial; Perennial	SUN ☀ Full sun ☀ Full sun-partial shade ☀ Partial shade	ADDITIONAL DETAILS	🦋 Monarch nectar plant	🍷 Attracts beneficial insects	🌱 Nest site
	FORM —Forb; Woody; Grass			🌱 Larval host (butterfly, moth, specialist bee)	🌿 Bumble bee plant	🍷 Fire resistant
	WATER NEEDS —Low; Medium; High					🍷 Deer resistant

NRCS Conservation Planners, PLEASE NOTE: Before purchasing or installing any plants for a project, check each species' suitability for different NRCS Conservation Practices by using the NRCS California eVegGuide (<https://www.calflora.org/nrcs/>).

Southern California native wildflower field border blooming in early spring. (Photograph by the Xerces Society / Cameron Newell.)



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