

NATIVE PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS & BENEFICIAL INSECTS: Southern Plains



LEFT—Native bee covered in pollen inside a *Callirhoe involucrata* flower. RIGHT—*Melissodes desponsus*, a thistle specialist bee, collects pollen from *Cirsium altissimum*.

Plant Selection

These plants are attractive to a diversity of pollinators, providing pollen and nectar to bees, butterflies, flies, beetles, wasps, and moths. Some plants provide additional resources as caterpillar host plants or nesting sites and nesting materials for above-ground nesting bees. Many support specialist bees that require pollen from specific plants to survive and supplement beneficial insects that can help control pests of ornamental and crop plants. These plants are native to this region—determine if a species is native in your area at plants.usda.gov—and can be used to create or enhance pollinator habitat across rural and urban landscapes.

When purchasing plants, let your local garden center or nursery know you want plant material free of pesticides that may harm pollinators.

Resources

- ⇒ Pollinator Conservation Resource Center: xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center
- ⇒ Bring Back The Pollinators: BringBackthePollinators.org
- ⇒ Reducing Pesticide Use & Impacts: xerces.org/pesticides

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	BLOOM	LIFE	FORM	SUN	SOIL	ADDITIONAL DETAILS ⓘ
<i>Acacia angustissima</i>	Prairie acacia	JUN–OCT	P			D	
<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	Leadplant	MAR–AUG	P			D	
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>★	Butterfly milkweed	JUN–AUG	P			D	
<i>Asclepias viridis</i>	Green antelopehorn milkweed	MAR–AUG	P			D–M	
<i>Baptisia sphaerocarpa</i>	Yellow wild indigo	MAR–AUG	P			D–M	
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Sideoats grama	JUN–OCT	P			D	
<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>	Purple poppymallow	MAR–AUG	P			D	
<i>Carex breviar</i>	Shortbeak sedge	MAR–AUG	P			D–W	
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey tea	MAR–MAY	P			D	
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>★	Buttonbush	JUN–AUG	P			M–W	
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern redbud	MAR–MAY	P			D–M	
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>★	Partridge pea	JUN–OCT	A			D–M	

KEY	LIFE: Annual	SOIL: Dry	★ Staff favorite	FORM: Forb	Sedge	Vine	SUN: Full sun	ADD'L. DETAILS: Larval host (butterfly, moth)	Bumble bee plant	Nest materials
	Biennial	Moist		Cactus	Shrub	Partial sun	Supports specialist bee		Nest thatch	
	Perennial	Wet		Grass	Tree	Full shade	Attracts beneficial insects	Nest site	Deer resistant	

Native Plants for Pollinators & Beneficial Insects: Southern Plains *continued*

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	BLOOM	LIFE	FORM	SUN	SOIL	ADDITIONAL DETAILS ①
<i>Cirsium altissimum</i> ★	Tall thistle	JUN–OCT	B / P			D–M	
<i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>	Plains coreopsis	MAR–AUG	A / P			D–M	
<i>Dalea candida</i>	White prairie clover	MAR–AUG	P			D–M	
<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i> ★	Narrow-leaved coneflower	MAR–AUG	P			D	
<i>Eryngium leavenworthii</i>	Leavenworth's eryngo	JUN–OCT	A			D	
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Rattlesnake master	JUN–AUG	P			D–W	
<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Indian blanket	MAR–AUG	A / B / P			D–M	
<i>Glandularia bipinnatifida</i>	Dakota mock vervain	MAR–OCT	A / P			D	
<i>Helianthus petiolaris</i>	Prairie sunflower	JUN–OCT	A			D–M	
<i>Liatris punctata</i>	Dotted blazing star	JUN–OCT	P			D	
<i>Lupinus texensis</i>	Texas bluebonnet	MAR–MAY	A			D–M	
<i>Mentzelia decapetala</i>	Tenpetal blazing star	JUN–AUG	B / P			D	
<i>Monarda citriodora</i> ★	Lemon beebalm	JUN–AUG	A			D–M	
<i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i>	Missouri evening primrose	MAR–AUG	P			D	
<i>Opuntia macrorhiza</i>	Twistspine prickly pear	MAR–AUG	P			D	
<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Purple passionflower	JUN–OCT	P			D–M	
<i>Penstemon tubiflorus</i>	White wand beardtongue	MAR–AUG	P			D	
<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	Prairie phlox	MAR–MAY	P			D–M	
<i>Prunus angustifolia</i>	Sand plum	MAR–MAY	P			D–M	
<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i> ★	Narrowleaf mountainmint	JUN–AUG	P			M	
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	Upright prairie coneflower	JUN–AUG	P			D–M	
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Fragrant sumac	MAR–AUG	P			D	
<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Golden currant	MAR–MAY	P			D–M	
<i>Salvia azurea</i>	Blue sage	SEP–OCT	P			D–M	
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little bluestem	JUN–OCT	P			D–M	
<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	Compass plant	JUN–AUG	P			D–M	
<i>Simsia calva</i>	Awnless bushsunflower	MAR–OCT	P			D	
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	Gray goldenrod	JUN–OCT	P			D	
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indiangrass	JUN–OCT	P			D	
<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	Scarlet globemallow	MAR–AUG	P			D–M	
<i>Symphotrichum oblongifolium</i> ★	Aromatic aster	JUN–OCT	P			D	
<i>Tradescantia occidentalis</i>	Prairie spiderwort	MAR–AUG	P			D–M	
<i>Verbena stricta</i>	Hoary verbena	JUN–OCT	A / P			D	
<i>Verbesina encelioides</i> ★	Golden crownbeard	MAR–OCT	A			D–M	
<i>Verbesina virginica</i>	Frostweed	JUN–OCT	B / P			M–W	
<i>Vernonia baldwinii</i>	Baldwin's ironweed	JUN–OCT	P			D–M	
<i>Yucca glauca</i>	Soapweed yucca	MAR–AUG	P			D	
<i>Zizia aurea</i> ★	Golden Alexanders	MAR–AUG	P			D–W	

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Acknowledgments

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