

NATIVE PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS & BENEFICIAL INSECTS: SOUTH WEST – Sonoran Desert



LEFT—Green sweat bee collects pollen from inside an *Sphaeralcea ambigua* flower. RIGHT—Leafcutter bee on *Parkinsonia florida*.

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>Acmispon rigidus</i> ★	Shrubby deervetch	FEB–MAY	P			D	
<i>Anisacanthus thurberi</i>	Desert honeysuckle	MAR–MAY	P			D	
<i>Asclepias linaria</i>	Pine needle milkweed	MAR–SEP	P			D	
<i>Asclepias subulata</i> ★	Rush milkweed	APR–NOV	P			D	
<i>Baccharis sarothroides</i>	Desert broom	SEP–DEC	P			D	
<i>Baileya multiradiata</i> ★	Desert marigold	APR–JUL	A / P			D	
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Sideoats grama	JUL–SEP	P			M	
<i>Calliandra eriophylla</i>	Fairy duster	FEB–MAR	P			D	
<i>Carnegiea gigantea</i>	Saguaro	MAY–JUN	P			D	
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i> ★	Desert willow	APR–SEP	P			D	
<i>Cirsium neomexicanum</i>	New Mexico thistle	MAY	B / P			M	
<i>Dalea formosa</i>	Feather dalea	APR–OCT	P			D	

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

Native Plants for Pollinators & Beneficial Insects: Sonoran Desert *continued*

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	BLOOM	LIFE	FORM	SUN	SOIL	ADDITIONAL DETAILS ①
<i>Delphinium scaposum</i>	Bare-stem larkspur	MAR–MAY	P			D	
<i>Dimorphocarpa wislizeni</i>	Spectaclepod	MAR–JUL	A			D	
<i>Ericameria laricifolia</i> ★	Turpentine bush	AUG–OCT	P			D	
<i>Erigeron divergens</i> ★	Spreading fleabane	APR–OCT	B			D	
<i>Eriogonum wrightii</i>	Wright's buckwheat	JUL–OCT	P			D	
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy	MAY–JUN	A / P			D	
<i>Ferocactus wislizeni</i>	Candy barrel cactus	MAY–JUN	P			D	
<i>Fouquieria splendens</i>	Ocotillo	FEB–MAY	P			D	
<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>	Broom snakeweed	JUN–JUL	P			D	
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Common sunflower	JUN–AUG	A			D	
<i>Hibiscus denudatus</i>	Desert hibiscus	MAY–NOV	P			D	
<i>Hyptis emoryi</i>	Desert lavender	JAN–MAY	P			D	
<i>Justicia californica</i>	Chuparosa	MAR–JUN	P			D	
<i>Larrea tridentata</i>	Creosote bush	FEB–APR	P			D	
<i>Linum lewisii</i>	Lewis flax	MAY–SEP	P			M	
<i>Lycium exsertum</i>	Wolfberry	JAN–MAR	P			D–M	
<i>Maurandella antirrhiniflora</i>	Roving sailor	MAR–OCT	P			M	
<i>Melampodium leucanthum</i>	Blackfoot daisy	MAR–OCT	P			D	
<i>Menodora scabra</i>	Twinpod	MAR–SEP	P			D	
<i>Mentzelia multiflora</i>	Adonis blazingstar	MAR–OCT	B / P			D	
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deer grass	JUL–OCT	P			D	
<i>Oenothera cespitosa</i> ★	Tufted evening primrose	MAY–JUN	P			D	
<i>Olneya tesota</i>	Desert ironwood	APR–MAY	P			D	
<i>Opuntia engelmannii</i> ★	Engelmann's prickly pear	APR–JUN	P			D	
<i>Parkinsonia florida</i>	Blue palo verde	APR–MAY	P			D	
<i>Penstemon parryi</i> ★	Parry's penstemon	MAR–MAY	P			D	
<i>Phacelia distans</i>	Distant phacelia	MAR–JUN	A			D	
<i>Prosopis velutina</i>	Velvet mesquite	MAR–AUG	P			D	
<i>Salix gooddingii</i>	Goodding's willow	MAR–JUN	P			W	
<i>Salvia columbariae</i>	Desert chia	MAR–JUL	A			D	
<i>Senegalia greggii</i>	Catclaw acacia	APR–JUN	P			D	
<i>Senna covesii</i>	Desert senna	APR–OCT	P			D	
<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i> ★	Desert globemallow	MAR–APR	P			D	
<i>Sporobolus airoides</i>	Alkali sacaton	JUN–OCT	P			D	
<i>Tecoma stans</i>	Yellow bells	APR–NOV	P			D	
<i>Thymophylla pentachaeta</i>	Fiveneedle pricklyleaf	MAY–AUG	P			D	
<i>Verbesina encelioides</i>	Crownbeard	JUN–AUG	A			D	
<i>Zinnia acerosa</i>	Desert zinnia	JUN–AUG	P			D	

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	Perennial	Wet		Grass	Tree	• Full shade	Deer resistant			

Acknowledgments

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We make the commitment to you that we will work every day to protect pollinators and their habitat. Will you support our work?

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