



THE XERCES SOCIETY FOR INVERTEBRATE CONSERVATION

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Pollinator Plants for Southern California: coastal and foothill regions

Native Forbs for Pollinators (Southern CA coast and foothills)

	Scientific Name	Flower Color	*Height Mature (ft)	Light Needs	*Drought Tolerance	*pH range	*Salinity Tolerance	Annual, Perennial, Biennial
Early Blooming Plants								
Imbricate phacelia	<i>Phacelia imbricata</i>	white	1	sun	moderate	7 to 8	moderate	P
Purple Chinese houses	<i>Collinsia heterophylla</i>	purple	3	shade	low	5 to 6	low	A
California Gilia	<i>Gilia achilleifolia</i>	purple	2	sun	low	6 to 7.5	low	A
Globe gilia	<i>Gilia capitata</i>	blue	3	sun	low	6 to 7	low	P
Rigid hedgenettle	<i>Stachys ajugoides</i>	pink	2	part shade	low	5 to 8	low	P
Tansy phacelia	<i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>	purple	1	sun	high	6 to 7.5	moderate	A
California bee plant	<i>Scrophularia californica</i>	red	4	sun to shade	low	5 to 7	low	P
Baby Blue Eyes	<i>Nemophila menziesii</i>	blue	0.5	sun to part shade	low	6.5 to 8	low	A
Early to Mid-Season Blooming Plants								
Creek Clover	<i>Trifolium obtusiflorum</i>	pink	1	sun to part shade	low	6 to 7.5	low	A
Bull Clover	<i>Trifolium fucatum</i>	white, yellow or red	1	sun to part shade	low	6 to 7.5	low	A
California hedgenettle	<i>Stachys bullata</i>	pink	2	part shade	low	5 to 8	low	P
Lupine	<i>Lupinus</i> spp.	blue	3	sun	low	6 to 8	low	A, P
Penstemon	<i>Penstemon</i> spp.	purple	3	sun to shade	moderate	6 to 8	high	P
Salt heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium curassavicum</i>	white	0.5	sun	high	6 to 8	high	P
Turkey tangle fogfruit	<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>	pink	0.5	sun	low	5.5 to 8.5	low	P
California poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	orange	2	sun	moderate	5 to 8	moderate	P

Mid-Season Blooming Plants

Deer Weed	<i>Lotus scoparius</i>	yellow	3	sun	moderate	7 to 8	moderate	P
Elegant clarkia	<i>Clarkia unguiculata</i>	yellow	3	sun	moderate	7 to 8	moderate	P
Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium puberulum</i>	red	2	sun to shade	moderate	6 to 8	low	A
Elegant madia	<i>Madia elegans</i>	white	3	sun	low	5.5 to 8	moderate	P
Evening primrose	<i>Oenothera elata</i>	yellow	3	sun	low	5 to 8	low	P
Bird's eyes	<i>Gilia tricolor</i>	yellow	3	part shade	moderate	6 to 8	moderate	P
Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum spp.</i>	white, yell., red	.5 - 4	sun to part shade	moderate	5.5 to 8	moderate	P
Point Reyes horkelia	<i>Horkelia marinensis</i>	purple	0.5	sun	high	6 to 8	moderate	A

Mid - Late Season Blooming Plants

Spanish clover	<i>Lotus purshianus</i>	white	2	sun	low	5 to 8	high	P
Fireweed	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	pink	1	sun to shade	moderate	5.5 to 8	low	A
California horkelia	<i>Horkelia californica</i>	white	1	sun	moderate	5.5 to 7.5	moderate	A

Late Season

Vinegar weed	<i>Trichostema lanceolatum</i>	blue	3	sun	low	7 to 8	moderate	A
Blazing Star	<i>Mentzelia laevicaulis</i>	yellow	3	sun	low	7 to 8	moderate	A
Gumplant	<i>Grindelia camporum</i>	yellow	3	sun	high	6 to 8	high	P
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus spp.</i>	yellow	3	sun	moderate	5.5 to 8	moderate	A
California goldenrod	<i>Solidago californica</i>	yellow	3	sun	low	5.5 to 7	low	P
Western Goldentop	<i>Euthemia occidentalis</i>	yellow	3	sun	low	5.5 to 8	high	P
Rod wirelettuce	<i>Stephanomeria virgata</i>	white, purple	6	sun	moderate	6 to 7	low	P
Hummingbird Trumpet	<i>Epilobium canum</i>	red	2	sun	high	5.5 to 6.5	moderate	P
Aster	<i>Aster spp.</i>	white, blue, purp.	3	sun	moderate	5 to 7	moderate	P

* Heights and tolerances may differ between populations, races, or ecotypes of the same species.

Native Trees and Shrubs for Pollinators (Southern CA coast and foothills)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Flower Color	*Height Mature (ft)	Light Needs	*Drought Tolerance	*pH Range	*Salinity Tolerance
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Very Early Blooming Plants

Bigberry Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos glauca</i>	white	12	sun	high	6 to 7	low
Greenleaf Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos patula</i>	white	6	sun	high	5.5 to 7.5	low
Willow	<i>Salix</i> spp.	yellow	20	sun	low	5 to 8	low

Early Blooming Plants

Western Redbud	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	red	15	sun to shade	moderate	5.5 to 8	low
Oregon Grape	<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	yellow	8	sun to shade	moderate	5 to 8	low
Buckbrush	<i>Ceanothus cuneatus</i>	white	8	sun	high	6 to 8.5	moderate
Blueblossom Ceanothus	<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i>	blue	12	sun to part shade	high	5 to 8	moderate
Woolyleaf Ceanothus	<i>Ceanothus tomentosus</i>	blue / white	8	sun to part shade	high	5 to 8	moderate
Ocean Spray	<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	white	5	sun to shade	low	6 to 8	moderate
False white indigobush	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	white	10	sun	moderate	6 to 8	high
Hollyleaf cherry	<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	white	25	sun	low	5 to 8	low

Early to Mid-Season Blooming Plants

Mule Fat	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	white	8	sun	low	6 to 8.5	moderate
Deerbrush	<i>Ceanothus integerrimus</i>	white / pink	12	sun to part shade	moderate	7 to 8.5	low
Flannel Bush	<i>Fremontodendron californicum</i>	yellow	10	sun to part shade	high	6 to 8	moderate

Mid-Season Blooming Plants

Toyon	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	white	8	sun to part shade	high	5 to 8	moderate
California Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	white	5	sun	high	6 to 8	moderate
Naked Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum nudum</i>	white	6	sun	high	6 to 8	moderate
California Wild Rose	<i>Rosa californica</i>	pink	6	sun to shade	moderate	5 to 8	low

Chamise	<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i>	white	10	sun	high	5 to 8	high
California coffeeberry	<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	white	15	part shade	moderate	6	moderate
Late Season Blooming Plants							
Coyotebrush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	white	8	sun	moderate	5 to 8	moderate

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Pollinator Friendly Cover Crops (Southern CA, Coast and Foothills)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Flower Color	*Height Mature (ft)	Light Needs	*Drought Tolerance	*pH Range	*Salinity Tolerance	Annual, Perennial, Biennial
Early Blooming Plants								
Hairy vetch	<i>Vicia villosa</i>	blue	1	sun to part.	low	5.5 to 6.5	moderate	A
Crimson clover	<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	red	1	sun to part.	low	6 to 7	low	A
Phacelia	<i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>	purple	3	sun to shade	moderate	6 to 9	high	A
Early to Mid-Season Blooming Plants								
Vetch	<i>Vicia spp</i>	purple	1 to 3	sun to part.	low	5.5 to 6.5	moderate	A
Fava Bean	<i>Vicia faba</i>	white	4	sun	low	5 to 8	low	A
Daikon radish	<i>Raphanus sativus</i>	white	2	sun	moderate	6.5 to 7.5	low	B
Mid-Season Blooming Plants								
Alfalfa	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	purple	1.5	sun	moderate	6.5 to 7	moderate	P, A
New Zealand clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	white	1	sun to part.	low	6 to 7	low	P

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Native Bunch Grasses for Pollinators (Southern CA coast and foothills)

Common Name	Scientific Name	*Height Mature (feet)	Light Needs	*Drought Tolerance	*pH Range	*Salinity Tolerance
Tufted hair grass	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	2	sun	low	5 to 7	low
Purple needle grass	<i>Nassella pulchra</i>	2	sun	high	5 to 8	moderate
California meadow barley	<i>Hordeum brachyantherum</i>	0.5	sun	low	5 to 7	low
Blue wildrye	<i>Elymus glaucus</i>	2	part shade	moderate	5 to 9	low
San Diego sedge	<i>Carex spissa</i>	6	sun	low	5 to 7.5	moderate
California fescue	<i>Festuca californica</i>	3	part shade	low	6 to 7.5	low
Deer grass	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	3	sun	moderate	5 to 8	
Desert needle grass	<i>Stipa speciosa</i>	1	sun	high	7 to 8	moderate

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Garden Plants for Pollinators (Southern CA coast and foothills)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Flower Color	*Height Mature (ft)	Light Needs	*Drought Tolerance	*pH Range	*Salinity Tolerance	Annual, Perennial, or Biennial
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Early Blooming Plants

Tansy phacelia	<i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>	purple	1	sun	high	6 to 7.5	moderate	A
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Early to Mid-Season Blooming Plants

Lavender	<i>Lavandula spp.</i>	purple	3	sun	moderate	6.5 to 7.5	moderate	P
Cape Mallow	<i>Anisodonteia spp.</i>	pink	6	sun	high			P
Horehound	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	white	3	sun	low	6 to 8	low	P
Penstemon	<i>Penstemon spp.</i>	purple	3	sun to shade	moderate	6 to 9	high	P

Mid-Season Blooming Plants

Sea holly	<i>Eryngium spp.</i>	blue	2	sun	moderate	6.5 to 8	low	P
Pincushion flower	<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>	purple	3	sun	moderate	6.5 to 8		P
Basil	<i>Ocimum spp.</i>	white	2	sun	moderate	4 to 8	low	P
Catmint	<i>Nepeta spp.</i>	white or blue	1	sun - prt shade	moderate	6 to 8	low	P
Giant Hyssop	<i>Agastache spp.</i>	purple	4	sun - prt shade	low	6 to 8	low	P
Russian sage	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	blue	5	sun	moderate	6 to 7.5	high	P
Toadflax	<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	purple	3	sun	moderate	6 to 8	low	P
Spearmint	<i>Mentha spicata</i>	pink	1	sun	low	6.5 to 7	low	P
Oregano	<i>Origanum spp.</i>	pink	1	sun	high	6.5 to 8	moderate	P
Thyme	<i>Thymus spp.</i>	pink	1	sun	moderate	6.5 to 8	moderate	P

Mid to Late Season Blooming Plants

Globe thistle	<i>Echinops ritro</i>	blue	5	sun	high	5 to 6		P
Mexican sunflower	<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>	orange	6	sun	moderate	6 to 8	moderate	A
Calliopsos	<i>Coreopsis tintoria</i>	yellow	3	sun	high	6 to 7.5	low	A, P, B
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>	variable	5	sun	high	6.5 to 8.5	moderate	A
Salvia	<i>Salvia spp.</i>	blue	5	sun to part.	moderate	5.5 to 7.5		P

Late Season Blooming Plants

Rosemary	<i>Rosemarinus officinalis</i>	blue	3	sun	high	6.5 to 7.5	moderate	P
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus</i> spp.	yellow	3	sun	moderate	5.5 to 8	moderate	A
Aster	<i>Aster</i> spp.	blue	2	sun to part.	moderate	6.5 to 7.5		P

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* Avoid hybrids or 'double' flowers, as these tend to contain less pollen