

WILDESCAPING

PLANT POLLINATOR PLANTS

common yarrow

coyote brush

california aster

narrowleaf milkweed

PLANT NATIVE SPECIES

california golden poppy

douglas iris

sticky monkey flower

ceanothus

How to support healthy ecosystems by gardening with intention

PLANT A VARIETY

california fuchsia

blue field gilia

hummingbird sage

california goldenrod

golden yarrow

coyote mint

elderberry

CREATE GROUPS OF COLOR

evening primrose

california buttercup

sky lupine

A reference guide by:



PICKING PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS



In order to bring specific pollinators to the garden, native plant selection should be based on pollinator preferences and should **provide flowers for forage throughout the year.**

Flowers provide nectar and pollen, which are important for adult pollinators. **Select native plants that provide a variety of food (berries, seeds, insects, pollen, and nectar) for all wildlife.**



Butterflies and moths have evolved to lay eggs on specific host plants, which their hatched larva/caterpillars exclusively feed on. These caterpillars and their adult forms of moths and butterflies, in turn, feed birds.

Want to attract **Monarchs**? Their host plant is **Milkweed**. Our local, native varieties are **Showy** and **Narrowleaf**. *Avoid non-native Tropical milkweeds as they can host parasites to Monarchs.



Bees are fond of blue, purple, yellow, and white flowers. Many **native bees live in wood and bare soil** – and providing habitat for them is just as important as flowers.



Hummingbirds are drawn mostly to long, red, tubular flowers.



USE A VARIETY OF PLANTS

diversity of native plants = **diversity** of animal life



Plant annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, vines & grasses to provide a diversity of habitats **with different heights, colors, shapes, sizes, bloom times and food sources.**



NUTS, SEEDS, & BERRIES FOR BIRDS



California Scrub Jay



shrub

Frangula californica
Coffeeberry



shrub

Ribes sanguineum
Red Flowering Currant



tree

Sambucus mexicana
Blue Elderberry



shrub

Heteromeles arbutifolia
Toyon



shrub

Rosa californica
California Rose

cedar waxwing

- Spring food source
- Summer food source
- Autumn food source
- Winter food source



herbaceous

Eriogonum fasciculatum
California Buckwheat



herbaceous

Helianthus californicus
California Sunflower

red-winged blackbird



herbaceous

Penstemon heterophyllus
Foothill Penstemon



grass

Festuca californica
California Fescue



tree

Quercus agrifolia
Coast Live Oak



Townsend's Warbler

Nuttall's Woodpecker



PLANT NATIVE SPECIES



Native, non-native climate appropriate plants, and more ornamental plants, can all come together in gardens, though **prioritizing native plants has the advantage.**



Having co-evolved with local wildlife, **native plants** promote animal diversity as they **almost exclusively provide food for native herbivorous insects that feed our food webs.** It is estimated that 90% of these insects only consume the plants with which they evolved.



***Cultivar varieties of native plants from nurseries and non-native plants do NOT provide the same benefit for native insects.**

Healthy insect populations means food for birds – 96% of which rely exclusively on insects to feed their young during nesting season – **and other wildlife.**



Native plants are also adapted to the local climate and soil conditions, making them **less dependent on water, requiring less maintenance and no fertilizer.**

Transitioning a garden from non-native to native can happen in phases. **Keeping existing non-native plants until they perish or until there are replacements is perfectly fine, as they may be providing some habitat in the meantime.**

CREATE GROUPS OF COLOR

Planting in patches resembles natural plant distribution.

Groups of colors and plant species helps to attract pollinators to their preferred plants, providing for more efficient access and pollination.



How does planting in groups increase pollination efficiency?

When a pollinator can visit the same type of flower in an area, it can efficiently and effectively transfer pollen to the same species, instead of adjusting to different flower shapes and squandering pollen on unreceptive flowers.

Consult [Calscape](#)* and [Audobon Society](#) for specific native plant recommendations for your region and information on specific pollinators, sun and soil conditions.

Visit [California Flora Nursery](#) for native plants for your garden.

**Note: Calscape and nurseries include cultivars as well, so check that you have the correct setting selected and consult with staff*



Penstemon

Lavender

Silver Lupine

Yarrow

Fiddleneck

Buttercup

California Goldenrod

California Poppy

Sticky Monkey Flower

HEALTHY GARDEN HABITS

AVOID PESTICIDES & PLANT HEDGEROWS

A healthy garden – and ecosystem – needs insects.



LEAVE THE LEAVES

Leaves retain soil moisture, provide nutrients and home overwintering insects that feed songbirds in winter.



WELCOME A LOW-MAINTENANCE APPROACH

Where appropriate, welcome dead trees and branches, as they are an invaluable habitat for birds and insects.



LEAVE SOME SOIL SHOWING

Native bees need bare ground as they are mostly solitary ground burrowers or cavity nesters.



PRUNE AT THE RIGHT TIME

Plan pruning outside of Sonoma County's songbird nesting season, which is March-September.



HEALTHY GARDEN HABITS

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Fall and winter are recommended for pruning so as not to disturb song bird nesting (which, by design, is often hard to notice). State and federal law protect native songbirds and their active nests, eggs, and chicks. Check thoroughly for nesting activity and monitor areas that need trimming.

LEAVE THE LEAVES



Leaves retain moisture, provide nutrients and home overwintering insects that feed songbirds in winter.

Decomposing leaves recycle vital nutrients to the soil. They also act as mulch, retaining moisture in the soil during warmer weather. Consider leaving them as they lay or piling them in one area, rather than removing them completely from a landscape.

WELCOME A LOW-MAINTENANCE APPROACH



Where appropriate, leaving dead trees and branches provides invaluable habitat for birds and insects.

Just like leaves, letting larger fallen branches and logs lay in the landscape acts as habitat for insects in many life phases. If a property is large enough to safely keep dead trees, do. They provide perches for raptors, important nesting cavities for birds, food for insects and more.

HEALTHY GARDEN HABITS

LEAVE SOME SOIL SHOWING



Native bees are solitary cavity nesters (30%) and ground burrowers (70%).

Bees provide precious pollination services in both wild and cultivated landscapes (including $\frac{1}{3}$ of our food crops). As most native bees utilize cavities (sticks, stems, wood) and ground nesting, leaving areas of exposed soil provides essential access to habitat.

AVOID PESTICIDES AND PLANT HEDGEROWS



A healthy garden – and ecosystem – needs insects.

Pesticides are indiscriminately toxic to bees, butterflies, and other pollinators and insects. Supporting healthy predatory insect and bird populations will provide pest control services naturally.

Certain native plants, such as *Coyote Brush* and *Ceanothus* species, support far greater populations and variety of insects than others. Planting shrubs like these as hedgerows, or border plants, will increase the likelihood of beneficial insects. Many birds also rely on shrubs for nesting sites, in the same way others need trees, mud, or ground nests.

Daily Acts would like to give a special shout out and thanks to [Doug Tallamy](#), co-founder of [Homegrown National Park](#) and author of books like *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard* and *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*, for inspiring the creation of this resource and providing useful information that we happily get to share with you!