

Bee-Friendly, Water-Wise Gardening

IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

Want to help your local honeybee and native bee populations, and cut back on water use at the same time? Plant drought-tolerant nectar- and pollen-rich plants! Not only will they provide forage for pollinators, but they require less water than lawns, and produce beautiful, fragrant blooms.



Pollinator-Friendly Planting

San Mateo County's climate makes it an ideal location to grow Mediterranean plants, which are accustomed to mild winters and dry summers. Additionally, many species of California natives thrive here. Tips on planning your garden:

- A variety of flower colors will attract a diverse variety of bees. Perennials that bloom blue, purple and violet are especially beneficial, attracting bees in large numbers. Yellow flowers also work well. Bees are not colorblind but they are unable to see red. Although red flowers are often rich in nectar and pollen, bees don't visit them as often as flowers in other colors.
- Most members of the *compositae* family (plants with flower centers composed of many tiny florets, such as daisies, cosmos, and zinnias) are good sources of nectar/pollen.
- Plant species that bloom in different seasons to extend enjoyment of the garden — both yours and the bees'!
- Native plant species are adapted to local conditions, often thriving with little to no water or care. They are also often excellent sources of nutrition for native pollinators.
- Bees collect only one type of pollen during a foraging trip, so large clumps of a single species (3 feet square) will attract more of them. However, even single plants will be found and enjoyed by pollinators.
- Put the right plant in the right location. A shade-loving plant in a sunny location will be stressed, and therefore vulnerable to disease and insect infestation. Additionally, make sure plants are getting the correct amount of water and pruning, so that they stay strong and healthy.



- Dead-heading (removing spent blossoms) can extend the bloom season for many plants.
- Include a "watering hole" for visiting bees. Fill a shallow container of water with pebbles or twigs for the bees to land on while drinking. Maintain the water level so they can return to the same spot every day (if you have a drip irrigation system, it's easy to add an emitter that tops up the container). Bees don't care if water is brackish, so don't worry about cleaning it too often!

Mulch Moderately!

Mulching is a great way to help your plants require less frequent watering, but it prevents native bees and bumblebees from burrowing into the ground to create their nests.

- Mulch around the root zone of your plants, but leave a patch of the garden in a sunny spot uncultivated and un-mulched for bees that burrow.
- Use bark or other biodegradable material for mulch. Rock 'mulches' form a permanent, impenetrable layer over the soil.
- For wood- and stem-nesting bees, piles of branches, bamboo sections, hollow reeds, or nesting blocks made out of untreated wood will be much appreciated.

Water & Feed Wisely

- Encourage low-water plants to root by watering infrequently and deeply. Frequent waterings cause plants to grow shallow root systems, making them less drought tolerant. Infrequent, deep waterings encourage them to grow deep roots. Properly-rooted drought-tolerant plants can often require watering only once or twice a month during the summer.
- Use organic fertilizers, and don't over-fertilize. Synthetic products can add to environmental pollution, and too much fertilizer can cause plants to over-grow, requiring more water than they normally would.

Pest Control

- Look first to controlling pests by changing or augmenting your gardening practices — consider chemical insecticides a last resort.
- Products with BT (*bacillus thuringiensis*) are best for grub and caterpillar control, including tomato hornworm.
- Mosquito Dunks and Mosquito Bits are BT-based and highly effective for controlling mosquitoes and fungus gnats.
- Use soaps or oils for insect control, and apply them carefully to avoid killing beneficial insects. Neem, Volck oil, copper and essential oils work well for insect, disease and fungus control.
- Don't use systemic pesticides. They kill the insects they are supposed to, but also persist in the plants and can kill bees and other pollinators. There is some evidence that toxins from nectar and pollen from plants treated with systemic pesticides can accumulate in wax and honey, weakening the entire colony.
- Read pesticide labels and avoid those containing the following:

Permethrin
Cyfluthrin

Imidacloprid
Bifenthrin

Malathion
Acephate

Disulfoton
Carbaryl

Cypermethrin
Metaldehyde

- Spinosad is the most environmentally friendly insecticide on the market. This naturally-occurring pesticide is potent, so be aware that it will kill both good and bad bugs.



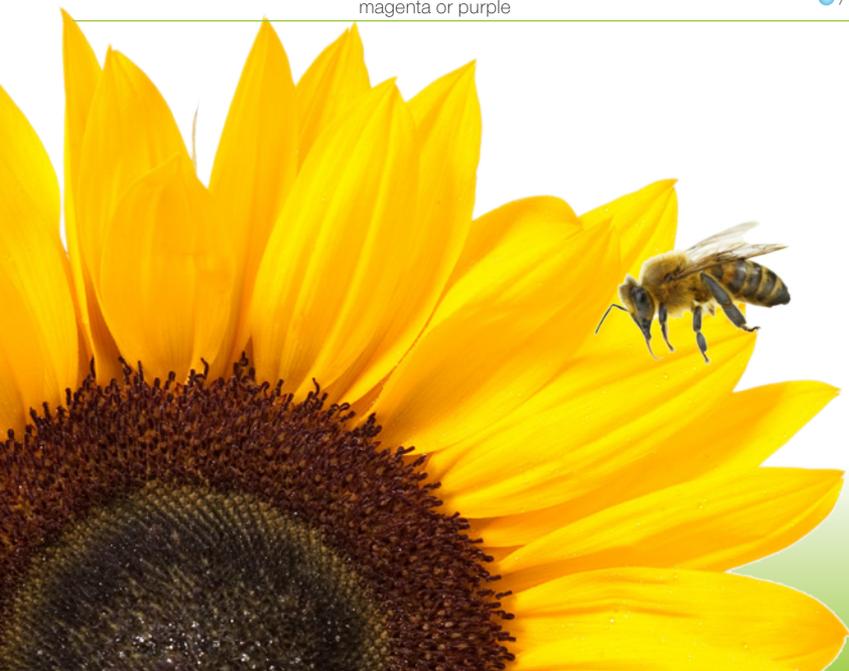
Pollinator-Friendly, Drought-Tolerant Plants for the Bay Area

Key

WATER REQUIREMENTS	SUN REQUIREMENTS
 Very low water	 Sun all day (5 hours or more)
 Low water	 Morning sun
 Average water	 Shade all day

Spring Blooming

PLANT	FLOWER COLOR	HEIGHT	WATER	SUN
Alyssum (annual)	White, purple	6 in		
Black Sage	Light blue	3–5 ft		
Blue Thimble Flower (<i>Gilia capitata</i>)	Blue	12–15 in		 
Bird's Eye (<i>Gilia tricolor</i>)	Blue	6–15 in		
Borage	Sky blue	1 ft		
California Lilac (<i>Ceanothus</i>)	Blue, white	1 ft prostrate shrub		
California Poppy	Orange	12 in		
<i>Calluna</i> (Heather)	Pink, purple, white, crimson	18–24 in	 / 	 
Chinese Forget-me-not (<i>Cynoglossum</i>)	Blue	18–24 in		 
Desert Canterbury Bells (<i>Phacelia campanularia</i>)	Vivid blue	1 ft		 
Fleabane (<i>Erigeron</i>)	Pink, white	12 in		
Forget-me-not	Blue, pink, white	6–12 in		 
Foxglove	White, pink, mauve	2–3 ft		
<i>Grevillea</i> species	Pink, red	1–3 ft		 
Heath (<i>Erica</i>)	White, pink, mauve, cerise, magenta or purple	18–24 in	 / 	 



Spring Blooming Plants, *continued*

PLANT	FLOWER COLOR	HEIGHT	WATER	SUN
Iceland Poppy	Gold, pink, red, orange, white	2 ft		
Lupine	Purple, white, yellow, blue,	6–36"		
Milkweed (<i>Asclepias</i>)	Gold, pink, red, orange	3–4 ft		
Pincushion Flower (<i>Scabiosa</i>)	Lavender, purple, pink, white	1–2 ft		
Poppies (<i>Papaver</i>)	Red, pink, burgundy	2–3 ft		
Pot Marigold (<i>Calendula</i>)	Yellow to orange	12–18 in		
Rosemary (trailing)	Pale blue	1 ft prostrate shrub		
<i>Salvia</i> (sage) species	Blue, purple, pink, red, white	1–4 ft		
Sticky Monkey Flower	Orange, pink, red	18–24 in		
Summer Forget-me-not (<i>Anchusa capensis</i>)	Medium blue	15 in		
Tidy Tips	White, yellow, gold	14–18 in		
Verbena	Violet	3–4 ft		
Wisteria	White, purple	Climbing vine		
Yarrow (<i>Achillea</i>)	White, yellow, pink, red	1–2 ft		

Summer Blooming

PLANT	FLOWER COLOR	HEIGHT	WATER	SUN
Aster	White to purple	2–3 ft		
Bird's Foot Trefoil	Yellow	6–18 in		
Blackberry	White	Vigorous vine		
Black-eyed Susan (<i>Rudbeckia</i>)	Gold	18 in		
Borage	Sky blue	2–3 ft		
California Buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum</i>)	White, pink, yellow	18 in		
<i>Calluna</i> (Heather)	Pink, purple white, crimson	18–24 in		
Catmint (<i>Nepeta</i>)	Blue-purple	18–24 in		
Chinese Houses	Violet	18–24 in		
Echinacea (Coneflower)	Pink, white, purple, gold	3–4 ft		
<i>Coreopsis</i> species	Gold, orange, red,	12–18 in		
Cosmos	White, pink, red, gold, orange	2–3 ft		
Coyote Mint (<i>Mondardella</i>)	Lavender	2 ft		
Daisy	White, pink, yellow			
Heath (<i>Erica</i>)	White, pink, mauve, cerise, magenta or purple	18–24 in		
Hebe	Purples, violets	2–4 ft		
Hollyhock	White, pink, red, yellow, apricot	5–7 ft		
Honeywort (<i>Cerintho major</i>)	Blue	1–3 ft		
Hummingbird Mint (<i>Agastache</i>)	Purple, pink, peach	2–3 ft		
Lavender	Blue, purple	12–24 in		
Liatris (<i>Liatris spicata</i>)	Lilac	12–18 in		
Lion's Tail (<i>Leonotis leonurus</i>)	Orange	3–5 ft		
Lupine	Blue, purple, gold, white, pink	2–3 ft		

Summer Blooming Plants, *continued*

PLANT	FLOWER COLOR	HEIGHT	WATER	SUN
<i>Madia</i> species	Yellow, gold	1–3 ft		
Mint family herbs: Mint, Basil, Oregano	White	12–24 in		 
Mullein (<i>Verbascum</i>)	White, yellow, pink	3–5 ft		 
Penstemon	Pink, red, purple, lavender, burgundy	18–36 in		
Pincushion Flower (<i>Scabiosa</i>)	Lavender, purple, pink, white	1–2 ft		 
Rosemary	Pale blue	1 ft		
Russian Sage (<i>Perovskia</i>)	Lavender	2–4 ft		
<i>Salvia</i> (sage) species	Blue, purple, pink, red, white	1–4 ft		 
Sea Holly (<i>Eryngium</i>)	Purple, blue, white	2–6 ft		
Snapdragon	Many colors	12–24 in		 
Summer Forget-me-not (<i>Anchusa capensis</i>)	Medium blue	15 in		
Sunflower	Yellow, gold, red, cream	2–8 ft		
Thyme	Lavender, pink, white	4–8 in		 
Toadflax (<i>Linaria</i>)	Purple	3–5 ft		 
<i>Verbascum</i> species	White, gold, pink	3 ft		 
Zinnia	Red, orange, gold, pink, white	12–24 in		

Late Summer/Fall Blooming

PLANT	FLOWER COLOR	HEIGHT	WATER	SUN
Globe Thistle (<i>Echinops</i>)	Blue	24 in		
Hebe	Purples, violets	2–4 ft		
Michaelmas Daisy (<i>Aster novi-belgii</i>)	Light purple	24–36 in		
Pot Marigold (<i>Calendula</i>)	Yellow to orange	12–18 in		
<i>Rudbeckia</i> (Black-eyed Susan)	Gold, orange, red	18–24 in		
Stoncrop (<i>Sedum</i>)	Pink	12–24 in		
Snapdragon	Many colors	12–24 in		 
Verbena	Violet	3–4 ft		

Trees and Shrubs

PLANT	FLOWER COLOR	HEIGHT	WATER	SUN
<i>Acacia</i> species	Yellow	10–40 ft tree		
Japanese Maple (<i>Acer</i>)	Not	10–40 ft tree		
<i>Arbutus</i> 'Marina'	White	40–50 ft tree		
Bottlebrush	Bright red	10–20 ft shrub		
Butterfly Bush (<i>Buddleja</i>)	Lilac	3–10 ft shrub		 
California Blue Sage (<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>)	Blue-purple	3–5 ft shrub		
California Lilac (<i>Ceanothus</i>)	Blue, white	1–5 ft shrub		 
California Wild Rose (<i>Rosa californica</i>)	Pink	3–4 ft		
Citrus species	White	3–20 ft shrub/tree		

Trees and Shrubs, *continued*

PLANT	FLOWER COLOR	HEIGHT	WATER	SUN
Crabapple, flowering	Pink, white	6–20 ft shrub/tree	💧	☀️☀️
<i>Dendromecon</i> species (Island Bush Poppy)	Yellow	4–8 ft shrub	💧	☀️
Devil's Tobacco (<i>Lobelia excelsa</i>)	Red	5 ft shrub	💧💧	☀️☀️
<i>Echium</i> species (Pride of Madeira and others)	Blue, purple, violet, pink	4–8 ft shrub	💧	☀️
Elderberry (<i>Sambucus</i>)	Cream, pale yellow	6–12 ft shrub	💧💧	☀️☀️
<i>Eucalyptus</i> species	White, pale yellow, pink, red	30–50 ft tree	💧	☀️
Flannel Bush (<i>Fremontodendron</i>)	Gold, yellow	5–10 ft shrub	💧	☀️☀️
Fruit and nut trees: Apple, Apricot, Pear, Peach, Plum, Almond, etc.	Pink or white	5–20 ft tree	💧💧	☀️
<i>Grevillea</i> species	Pink, red	6–10 ft shrub or small tree	💧	☀️☀️
Guava species	Pink	6–20 ft shrub or small tree	💧	☀️
Hawthorn species	White, pink, red	25 ft tree	💧	☀️
Loquat	White	35 ft tree	💧	☀️
Manzanita species	White to pale pink	3 ft shrub to 40 ft tree	💧	☀️
Matilija poppy ("Fried-egg Plant")	White	5–8 ft	💧	☀️
Mock Orange (<i>Philadelphus lewesii</i>)	White	4–12 ft shrub	💧	☀️
Olive	Cream	10–15 ft tree	💧	☀️
<i>Pittosporum</i> (mock orange)	Cream		💧	☀️
Rhododendron	White, pink, red, peach, lilac	3–8 ft shrub	💧💧💧	☀️
<i>Ribes</i> species (California currants and gooseberries)	White, pink, red, yellow	2–10 ft shrub	💧	☀️☀️
Rosemary (upright)	Pale blue	2–6 ft	💧	☀️
Strawberry Tree	White, followed by 1-inch bright red fruits	8 ft shrub	💧	☀️
Sweet Pea Bush	Purple	4–5 ft shrub	💧💧	☀️☀️
Toyon	White	8–10 ft shrub	💧	☀️
<i>Vitex</i> (Chaste Tree)	Lilac, pink, white, blue	6–20 ft shrub	💧	☀️
Western Redbud	Lilac	6–8 ft shrub	💧	☀️
<i>Westringia</i> species (Mint Bush)	White	2–4 ft shrub	💧	☀️☀️
Woolly Blue Curls	Violet + Blue	3–4 ft shrub	💧	☀️



For More Information..

The Beekeepers' Guild of San Mateo County

The Beekeepers' Guild of San Mateo County was founded in 1979. Our members range from people wanting to learn about bees before acquiring them, to "newbee" beekeepers with their first hives, to master beekeepers with many years of experience and education. The Guild provides a valuable community for sharing information, tips and resources, and camaraderie. Experienced members frequently guide and mentor beginning beekeepers.



Beekeepers' Guild
of San Mateo County
www.sanmateobeeguild.org

For more information, email learnaboutbees@sanmateobeeguild.org or visit our web site, www.sanmateobeeguild.org

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