

Bee Gardening Tips:

- Bees prefer to visit a single floral source on a foraging trip, so provide a patch size of at least 3' x 3' for each plant species.
- Plant a variety of plants that bloom at different times of the year.
- Plant natives to support the bees that evolved with those plants.
- Find plant stock that has not been treated with neonicotinoids, a class of pesticides (banned in Europe) that can cause memory problems in insects and shorten life spans.
- Some “weeds” provide forage for bees, and other benefits to wildlife including seeds or fruit for birds.
- Plant a kitchen garden that you and the bees will enjoy.
- Select straight species over highly bred cultivars
- Eliminate use of chemicals in your garden.
- Most native bees are ground nesting, so leave patches of bare dirt.
- Don't be too tidy. But dried leaves and stacks of twigs / etc. should be kept 30' from structures.
- Allow hedges and English ivy to bloom before cutting back.
- Plant in fall to allow for two seasons of root growth and winter rains to help get plants established before a dry Marin summer.

Additional Information

Plant lists and habitat guides:

Pollinator plants for Marin (commonly available at nurseries):

<http://bonniebeecompany.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Plants-for-pollinators-in-Marin.pdf>

[Calscape.org](https://www.calscape.org/)

Find plants native by zip code

[Homegrownnationpark.org](https://www.homegrownnationpark.org/)

Pollinator Partnership: eco-regional planting guides

<https://www.pollinator.org/PDFs/Guides/CalifCoastalStepperx4FINAL.pdf>

UC Berkeley Urban Bee Lab

<http://www.helpabee.org/best-bee-plants-for-california.html>

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation: Habitat Assessment Guide for Pollinators

<https://xerces.org/publications/habitat-assessment-guides/habitat-assessment-guide-for-pollinators-in-yards-gardens>

Xerces: Milkweed seed finder

<https://xerces.org/milkweed/milkweed-seed-finder>

Books:

Bringing Nature Home

By Doug Tallamy

Workman Press

California Bees & Blooms

By Gordon Frankie, Robbin Thorp, Rollin Coville and Barbara Ertter

Heyday

California Foraging

By Judith Larner Lowry

Timber Press

Designing California Native Gardens: The Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens

By Glenn Keator, Alrie Middlebrook, Phyllis M. Faber (Other primary creator)

Reimagining the California Lawn

By Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien

Cachuma Press

The Bee-Friendly Garden

By Kate Frey and Gretchn LeBuhn

Ten Speed Press

The Bees in Your Backyard

By Joseph S. Wilson & Olivia Messinger Carrill

Princeton University Press

The California Native Landscape: The Homeowner's Design Guide to Restoring Its Beauty and Balance

by Greg Rubin and Lucy Warren

Timber Press

The California Wildlife Habitat Garden

By Nancy Bauer

University of California Press

The Xerces Society Guide to Attracting Native Pollinators,

By Eric Mader, Matthew Shepherdm Mace Vaughn, Scott Hoffman Black, and Gretchen LeBuhn

Storey Publishing