

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



LEFT—Grey hairstreak on *Larrea tridentata*. RIGHT—Mining bees on *Baileya multiradiata*.

## 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](http://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](http://xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center)
- ⇒ Bring Back The Pollinators: [BringBackthePollinators.org](http://BringBackthePollinators.org)
- ⇒ Reducing Pesticide Use & Impacts: [xerces.org/pesticides](http://xerces.org/pesticides)

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	BLOOM	LIFE	FORM	SUN	SOIL	ADDITIONAL DETAILS ⓘ
<i>Agave lecheguilla</i>	Shindagger	MAY–JUL	P			D	
<i>Asclepias asperula</i> ★	Antelopehorn milkweed	MAR–OCT	P			M	
<i>Asclepias subverticillata</i>	Horsetail milkweed	JUL	P			D	
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	Mulefat	APR–MAY	P			W	
<i>Baileya multiradiata</i> ★	Desert marigold	APR–JUL	A / P			D	
<i>Berlandiera lyrata</i>	Chocolate flower	APR–NOV	P			D	
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Side-oats grama	JUL–SEP	P			M	
<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	
<i>Delphinium wootonii</i>	Organ Mountain delphinium	MAR–JUN	P			D	
<i>Dimorphocarpa wislizeni</i>	Spectaclepod	MAR–JUL	A			D	

  

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

## Native Plants for Pollinators & Beneficial Insects: SW Chihuahuan Desert *continued*

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	BLOOM	LIFE	FORM	SUN	SOIL	ADDITIONAL DETAILS ①
<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>Erysimum capitatum</i>	Western wallflower	MAR–JUL	B / P			M	
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy	MAY–JUN	A / P			D	
<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i>	Apache plume	MAY–JUN	P			D	
<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i> ★	Blanketflower	APR–MAY	A / B / P			M	
<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>	Broom snakeweed	JUN–JUL	P			D	
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Common sunflower	JUN–AUG	A			D	
<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>	Hairy false goldenaster	JUN–AUG	P			D	
<i>Hibiscus denudatus</i>	Desert hibiscus	MAY–NOV	P			D	
<i>Hibiscus denudatus</i>	Desert hibiscus	MAY–NOV	P			D	
<i>Larrea tridentata</i>	Creosote bush	FEB–APR	P			D	
<i>Linum lewisii</i>	Blue flax	MAY–SEP	P			M	
<i>Machaeranthera tanacetifolia</i> ★	Tahoka daisy	AUG–OCT	A			D	
<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>Nama hispida</i>	Sandbells	FEB–MAY	A			D	
<i>Oenothera cespitosa</i> ★	Tufted evening primrose	MAY–JUN	P			D	
<i>Opuntia macrocentra</i>	Purple prickly pear	APR–JUN	P			D	
<i>Penstemon ambiguus</i>	Sand penstemon	MAY–OCT	P			D	
<i>Phacelia integrifolia</i>	Scorpionweed	MAY–OCT	A			D	
<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i>	Honey mesquite	MAR–JUN	P			D	
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	Upright prairie coneflower	MAY–OCT	P			M	
<i>Rhus aromatica</i> ★	Threelobed sumac	MAR–APR	P			D	
<i>Salix gooddingii</i>	Goodding's willow	MAR–JUN	P			W	
<i>Salvia lycioides</i>	Canyon Sage	JUL–OCT	P			M	
<i>Senecio flaccidus</i> ★	Threadleaf groundsel	JUN–OCT	P			D	
<i>Senegalia greggii</i>	Catclaw acacia	APR–JUN	P			D	
<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i> ★	Scarlet globemallow	APR–SEP	P			D	
<i>Sporobolus airoides</i>	Alkali sacaton	JUN–OCT	P			D	
<i>Tecoma stans</i>	Yellow bells	APR–NOV	P			D	
<i>Thelesperma megapotamicum</i>	Cota	MAY–OCT	P			D	
<i>Thymophylla pentachaeta</i>	Fiveneedle pricklyleaf	MAY–AUG	P			D	
<i>Verbesina encelioides</i>	Crownbeard	JUN–AUG	A			D	
<i>Viguiera dentata</i>	Toothleaf goldeneye	SEP–NOV	P			D	
<i>Zinnia acerosa</i>	Desert zinnia	JUN–AUG	P			D	

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	Biennial	Moist		Cactus	Shrub	Partial sun	Supports specialist bee		Nest thatch	
	Perennial	Wet		Grass	Tree	● Full shade	Attracts beneficial insects		Nest site	Deer resistant

### Acknowledgments

This list was developed with funding from the Carroll Petrie Foundation, Church and Dwight Philanthropic Foundation, CS Fund, Desert Door, Disney Conservation Fund, General Mills, Karyn & David Ries Charitable Fund, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. **PHOTOS:** Anne Reeves [[flickr.com/charlock](https://www.flickr.com/photos/charlock/)]. For more information on installing pollinator habitat, see the list of Resources on front page.

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