

CREATING A POLLINATOR GARDEN!

Protecting Pollinators and Biodiversity in Your Home: Local actions by individuals can protect pollinators. Below are ideas for things you can do at home to help protect the biodiversity of local pollinators and give you the chance to see butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and other friendly fauna.



Summer is a great time to create a pollinator garden in your neighborhood or yard and **contribute to a healthy and sustainable future for generations of both pollinators and people!** Here is a recipe for creating your own pollinator garden.

Necessary Ingredients

- An area with **soil** (in the ground or in containers)
- As much **sun** as possible
- Plenty of **water**
- **Rocks** (to taste)
- **Mulch** (straw, wood chips or bark)
- Pollinator **plants** (Native plants work best)
- Garden **tools** (ie. spade, trowel, shovel)
- A ceramic **bowl** (or clay pot)
- Long term **commitment**

Step 1. Preparation

Make sure your garden area is weed free and the soil is “loosened up.” *Hint: Wet the soil the day before to make weed pulling easier!* If need be, bring in fresh soil.

Step 2. Landscaping

If your garden site is very windy, a **wind block** may be necessary. **Rocks** are great for adding contrast to the garden and also provide warm places for butterflies to perch. A **bowl with mud** in the garden gives butterflies a place to drink and obtain minerals. (They need the mud in order to drink water, which they do through a process called “wicking”).

Step 3. Planting

Place plants **far enough apart** to allow for growth. **Water thoroughly**, immediately after planting. See the following list for food for butterflies and humming birds recommended plants, which provide food for butterflies and humming birds (**nectar**) and caterpillars (**leaves**). Gardens with a **high density of diverse plants** are most attractive to pollinators.

Step 4. Mulching

Mulching is a great way to **discourage weeds**. First, place a 3-ply layer of wet **newspaper** on the ground around plants (*The newspaper is optional, but acts as an extra biodegradable barrier against weeds.*). Pile on a thick layer of **mulch**. Try tree removal companies for a source for mulch. *When using paper, remember that it can help hold moisture in, but it will also necessitate more thorough watering in order to get water down to plant roots.*

Step 5. Maintenance

Pruning: Take out dead plant material (leaves, flowers, branches) to allow for new growth! (Make sure not to disturb birds' nests, caterpillars or chrysalis)

Watering: New plants will need frequent water in order to establish strong roots. For established gardens, periodic deep waterings are a good idea, especially during the driest weeks of summer.

Recommended Flowering Plant List for California

Hummingbird plants: CA buckeye, lily, wild lilac (ceanothus), columbine, madden, native thistle, monkey flower, snapdragon, CA fuchsia, penstemon, honeysuckle, black and white sages, yucca, azalea.

Butterfly plants: yarrow, dill, snapdragon, milkweed, aster, mum, coreopsis, cosmos, fennel, sunflower, sweet pea, broccoli, cabbage, nasturtium, lupine, lavender, lemon mint, marjoram, oregano, thyme, parsley, dill, phlox, Mexican hat, coneflower, black eyed Susan, zinnia, goldenrod, nettle, marguerite.