

## 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