

Non-native Hedgerow Plants for Pollinators

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Why consider using non-native plants to enhance pollinator habitat?

- *For year-round bloom.* Most California native plants have adapted to drought by blooming in the late winter and early spring, and entering virtual dormancy during the summer and fall. Using appropriate non-native plants that bloom in summer and fall can provide year-round food for pollinators and other beneficial insects.
- *For diversity.* The best pollinator habitat is created by providing a large number of flowering plants, of different flower colors, shapes, and sizes, blooming over an extended period of time. Appropriate non-native plants add to the diversity of a hedgerow or insectary plantings.
- *For aesthetics.* There are so many beautiful flowering plants adapted to the Mediterranean climate that it is possible to create a beautiful and engaging garden year-round. Including non-native plants in the pollinator-plant palette can add to the appeal of creating pollinator gardens in highly visible places, such as ornamental landscaping around homes and buildings, along driveways, or gates & entrances.

Guidelines for using non-native plants for pollinator gardens and hedgerows

- *Choose non-invasive plants.* Non-native plants that are invasive (i.e. spreading easily from seed or roots, with few natural controls or limiting factors) can spread from planted areas into wild habitats (riparian areas, wetlands, etc.) and can outcompete and displace native plants and the animals, birds and insects that depend on them. Become familiar with invasive plants in your area, and don't plant a pest! See the resource list for more info.
- *Select your site carefully.* If you are creating pollinator habitat in the city or in a cultivated area, by all means include appropriate non-native plants. However, if you have a large property that includes uncultivated wild lands, with either intact or restorable native habitat (i.e. riparian corridors, wetlands, oak woodlands) it's best to stick to native plants in those zones. This way, you'll restore and enhance native habitat for the creatures that depend on it in those areas not already cultivated or planted with non-natives.
- *Choose and group plants with the same cultural needs.* Group plants (native & non-native) that have the same cultural needs (sun vs. shade, water vs. drought tolerant). This way all plants can be irrigated (or not) on the same schedule and will thrive under the site conditions.
- *Design with pollinators in mind.* Fields of lavender or wild mustard are beautiful, and great for pollinators – for a few weeks or months out of the year! But they don't provide a regular supply of pollen and nectar throughout the year. To maximize pollinator habitat, balance floral diversity, for year-round bloom, with floral grouping, to help pollinators forage efficiently.
 - Most pollinators prefer to forage from a single plant species in a "trip", so grouping plants in clusters at least 4' in diameter helps them forage efficiently.
 - Many native pollinators are adapted to, and prefer, native plants
 - Bees prefer plants with blue, lavender, white or yellow flowers

Non-native Hedgerow Plant List

These are, of course, not the only good pollinator plants, but each plant on this list thrives in full sun, is drought tolerant, and is a proven performer in hedgerows in the North Coast of California. Some plants included on this list are native to California, but not native to the North Bay region.

Species	Common Name	Flower color	Starts blooming
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	rosemary	blue	February
<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	bush germander	blue	March
<i>Salvia brandegei</i>	Brandegee's sage	white	March
<i>Salvia</i> 'Bee's Bliss'		lavender	March
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Cleveland's sage	lavender	April
<i>Salvia greggii</i>	autumn sage	various	April
<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i>	foothill penstemon	blue, violet	April
<i>Linum lewisii</i>	blue flax	blue	April
<i>Cistus ladanifer</i>	crimson-spot rockrose	white	April
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow	various	April
<i>Scabiosa</i> spp.	pincushion flower	blue, lavender, white	April
<i>Salvia apiana</i>	white sage	white	April
<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	black sage	white	April
<i>Salvia nemorosa</i>	meadow sage	lavender, purple	May
<i>Salvia chamaedryoides</i>	blue Chihuahuan sage	electric blue	May
<i>Satureja officinalis</i>	winter savory	white	May
<i>Eriogonum</i> spp.	buckwheat	white	May
<i>Nepeta faassenii</i>	catmint	lavender	May
<i>Lavandula</i> spp.	lavender	lavender	June
<i>Origanum</i> spp.	ornamental oregano	white, pink	June
<i>Santolina</i> spp.	lavender cotton	yellow	June
<i>Salvia sclarea</i>	clary sage	white	June
<i>Salvia dolomitica</i>	South African sage	lavender	June
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	chaste tree	lavender	June
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	germander	lavender	June
<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>	hyssop	lavender	June
<i>Sedum telephium</i>	sedum	pink	July