

The Most Important Plants for Native Bees that Visit Crops in the Central Valley of California

California has an estimated 1,500 species of native bees. Research has shown that some of these bees not only visit crops, but also improve crop production. Studies conducted in the Central Valley of California indicate that native bees can only provide these pollination services when their habitat needs are met. Planting a diverse mix of native plants that bloom throughout the entire growing season is one way to improve pollen and nectar resources on your property. When planning your hedgerow, choose a few species from each flowering season below. If you are interested the most attractive plants, look at the rank classification - "1" being the most attractive to bees.

This list was compiled by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and based on research conducted near Davis, California by Claire Kremen (University of California, Berkeley), Neal Williams (Bryn Mawr College), Sarah Greenleaf (California State University, Sacramento), Robert Bugg (University of California, Davis), Robbin Thorp (UC Davis) and Nikki Nicola (UC Davis).

Flowering season	Common name	Species name	Rank*
very early	Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos manzanita</i>	25
very early to early	Willow	<i>Salix sp.</i>	20
early	California redbud	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	14
early	Hollow leaf lupine	<i>Lupinus succulentus</i>	15
early	Imbricate phacelia	<i>Phacelia imbricata</i>	16
early to late	Poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	3
early to mid	Mule's fat	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	13
early to mid	California yerba santa	<i>Eriodictyon californicum</i>	18
mid	Toyon	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	1
mid	Lupine	<i>Lupinus microcarpus</i>	6
mid	California wild rose	<i>Rosa californica</i>	7
mid	Common deerweed (or Western bird's-foot trefoil)	<i>Lotus scoparius</i>	11
mid	Ithurial's spear	<i>Triteleia laxa</i>	12
mid	Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	21
mid	Chamise	<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i>	22
mid	Western dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	23
mid	California coffeebery	<i>Rhamnus californica (Frangula californica)</i>	24
late (rw)	Vinegar weed	<i>Trichostema lanceolatum</i>	2
late	Blazing star	<i>Mentzelia laevicaulis</i>	4
late (rw)	Gumplant	<i>Grindelia camporum</i>	5
late	Small flower western rosinweed	<i>Calycadenia pauciflora</i>	8
late	Button bush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	9
late	Common sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	19
late to very late (rw)	Hayfield tarweed	<i>Hemizonia congesta</i>	10
late to very late	Rod wirelettuce	<i>Stephanomeria virgata</i>	17
late to very late	Coyotebrush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	26
late to very late	Hummingbird trumpet	<i>Epilobium canum</i>	27

* = 1 is the best

rw = potentially considered a rangeland weed.