



Pollinator Annuals/Perennials

Pollinator-friendly plants are those that provide essential resources like nectar, pollen, and habitat to attract pollinators such as bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other beneficial insects. These plants often have brightly colored, fragrant flowers that are shaped to accommodate specific pollinators, making it easier for them to access the nectar and pollen. Unlike other plants, pollinator-friendly species are rich in nutrients that sustain pollinators and are usually free of pesticides or harmful chemicals. Additionally, many of these plants bloom over extended periods, ensuring a continuous food source throughout the growing season, which supports the health and diversity of pollinator populations.

1. **Abelia (*Abelia* spp.)** - Abelia is an excellent choice for pollinator gardens. The plant is semi-evergreen and produces clusters of small, tube-shaped flowers in mid-summer that are usually seen in white, pink, and yellow, and the pollinators that they mainly attract are bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.
2. **Aster (*Aster* spp.)** - Asters are one of the best pollinators. They serve as an excellent source of pollen for all sizes. Specific pollinators that are attracted to asters include skippers, long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, and small to medium-sized butterflies. This is a deciduous plant.
3. **Beebalm (*Monarda*)** - Beebalm is a nectar-rich flower that is pollinated by hummingbirds, songbirds, bees, and butterflies. This is a deciduous plant.
4. **Butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii*)** - Butterfly bushes provide a large amount of nectar, attracting pollinators like butterflies, bees, wasps, beetles, and birds. The vibrant colors will attract many pollinators. This is a deciduous plant.

5. **Canna (*Canna × generalis*)** - Canna grows 3-5 feet tall and spreads. It has many colors of blooms and variegation of leaves depending on the variety. Prefers full sun to part shade.
6. **Catmint (*Nepeta spp.*)** - The nectar of the flowers attracts long-tongued bees primarily, including honeybees, bumblebees, cuckoo bees, long-horned bees, leaf-cutting bees, and hummingbirds. Catmint can also help deter other pests like aphids and squash bugs. This plant is deciduous.
7. **Cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus spp.*)** - Grows to 20 feet tall and 10 feet wide. It is an evergreen shrub that produces deep red berries.
8. **Columbine (*Aquilegia*)** - Columbines have about 70 species of flowers that have nectar spurs expanding from the base of the flower petals. Each species has spurs that are different lengths, seemingly specialized to that species' pollinator. Common pollinators include hummingbirds, hawkmoths, and bees.
9. **Coneflower (*Echinacea*)** - Echinacea is a great plant for pollinators, with a large landing pad, bright color, and lots of beneficial nectar and pollen. It supports long-tongued bees, bumblebees, digger bees, leaf-cutting bees, carpenter bees, Normandine cuckoo bees, honeybees, and bee flies. This is a deciduous plant.
10. **Desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*)** - Desert willows are mainly pollinated by many different species of bees and hummingbirds. The Desert willow blooms from summer through early fall. This is a deciduous plant.
11. **Esperanza (*Tecoma stans*)** - Esperanza, also known as yellow bells or hardy yellow trumpet, is a subtropical Texas native that flowers clusters of yellow bell-shaped flowers. The blooms are a tad fragrant, attracting hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, and other insects. Esperanza is also the larval host for the Dogface butterfly and food for the Plebeian sphinx. Gold Star Esperanza is a deciduous variety in East Texas.
12. **Flame acanthus (*Anisacanthus quadrifidus*)** - Flame Acanthus is a red-blooming shrub that is known to attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and many other beneficial pollinators to your garden. It is heat-tolerant and drought-tolerant, thriving in sunny, well-drained soil throughout Texas. A great xeriscape plant. It is a deciduous plant.

13. **Indian blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*)** - The Indian blanket is native to North America. It is known for its vibrant coloration, which attracts bees, its primary pollinator. This is a deciduous plant.
14. **Indian hawthorn (*Rhaphiolepis indica*)** - The Indian hawthorn is a smaller shrub that produces fragrant pink or white flowers in the spring. The main pollinators of this plant are bees and wasps. This is an evergreen plant.
15. **Ice plant (*Delosperma cooperi*)** - Not only is this plant drought-tolerant, but it is also deer-tolerant and winter-hardy. It grows 4 to 6 inches tall and 6 to 8 inches wide. The only catch is to ensure the location where you plant this has excellent drainage. Great pollinator. This plant is deciduous.
16. **Lantana (*Lantana* spp.)** - Lantana is known to attract pollinators such as butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds. Their florets are the perfect shape for nectar-gathering insects. Lantanas attract all kinds of pollinators and bloom late in the season when the majority of other flowers are not. Lantana is a hardy annual to perennial.
17. **Milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.)** - Milkweed is an amazing nectar source for monarchs and many other pollinators. Leafcutter bees, small carpenter bees, and cuckoo bees are some common pollinators of milkweed. Milkweed has a unique method of transferring pollen for cross-pollination. Pollen is aggregated in sac-like bundles called pollinia, located on either side of the stigmatic chamber. The two bundles are strung together with a gland (filament) at the top of the stigmatic chamber. This is a deciduous plant.
18. **Muscadine grape (*Vitis rotundifolia*)** - Muscadines are produced on vigorous-growing vines that can be used to cover arbors, fences, and trellises. The fruit is high in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. They can be eaten fresh, made into wine, dried (raisins), and used in jam and jellies. They prefer full sun and are deciduous.
19. **Sage (*Salvia* spp.)** - Salvia is a great plant to have in your pollinator garden. Its nectar attracts all types of insects, but it mainly attracts honeybees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. It is also deer-resistant due to its fragrance. Additionally, it is a low-maintenance and drought-tolerant plant. There are annual and perennial varieties of this plant.
20. **Sedum (*Sedum* spp.)** - Most sedums grow about 1-2 feet tall and wide. They prefer full sun to part shade. Their main attractants will be butterflies.

21. **Texas sage (*Leucophyllum frutescens*)** - The Texas Sage is a great shrub for low maintenance, semi-evergreen, drought, and heat tolerance. The blooms provide nectar for many pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and moths. The thick shrubbery also provides shelter for mockingbirds.
22. **Trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*)** - Trumpet creepers can get 30-40 feet tall and wide when grown on a trellis. They can take full sun to part shade and produce red/orange flowers in a trumpet shape, hence the name.
23. **Waxleaf ligustrum (*Ligustrum japonicum* 'Texanum')** - Grows 15 feet tall and 10 feet wide. This fast-growing plant is great for pollinators, is evergreen, and prefers full sun.