



# Sage Advice from the Roundhouse....

## Creating a POLLINATOR GARDEN

**F**lowering plants and pollinating insects have evolved together over time, each depending on the other for survival and reproduction. By mimicking nature in your garden, you can attract these beneficial insects (and birds) up close where you will be inspired to observe, ponder and inquire into the beauty, complexity and interdependence of the web of life. Here is some helpful information to get you started...

**IDENTIFY A THEME:** Using natural communities as the model, choose an appropriate unifying theme for the garden/ planting; Evergreen Forest, Southern Oak Woodland, Valley Grassland, Chaparral, Coastal Sage Scrub, Desert Wash....

**INCLUDE NATURAL FEATURES:** A water feature is an essential element to any wildlife garden. Butterflies need only a shallow puddle or muddy spot for drinking, while hummingbirds use trickling or splashing water in small fountains. Other natural features, like mounds, rocks, branches or logs and/or a dry stream bed add habitat, interest and authenticity to the setting.

**SELECT APPROPRIATE PLANTS:** Include a diversity of trees, shrubs, succulents, perennials, grasses and annuals from the natural community. Bright yellow composite-type flowers (like sunflowers), Yarrow and Buckwheat species and tubular-shaped flowers are especially effective for attracting pollinators. Larval host plants are those that butterflies require specifically for laying eggs on, and which larvae require for feeding.

**LAYOUT:** Plant canopy trees and tall shrubs with understory layers of lower growing shrubs, vines and perennials. This provides cover for a sense of security and nesting places. Also leave an open space for courtship displays.

**MAINTENANCE:** Little to none! Brush piles, downed wood and leaf litter provide beneficial habitat. Eliminate the use of all garden chemicals. Observe closely as mother nature restores balance in your garden, and it becomes a healthy, self-regulating ecosystem!



### NECTAR / POLLEN PLANTS

*Abutilon, Achillea, Adenostoma, Baccharis, Ceanothus, Epilobium, Justicia, Lonicera, Lotus, Mimulus, Monardella, Opuntia, Penstemon, Salvia, Solidago, Trichostema, Verbena*

### LARVAL HOST PLANTS

*Amorpha, Asclepias, Ceanothus, Chilopsis, Epilobium, Eriogonum, Holodiscus, Lotus, Lupinus, Nassella, Prunus, Quercus, Rhamnus, Ribes, Salix*

### NIGHT-BLOOMING NATIVES FOR MOTHS

*Oenothera, Mirabilis, Datura, Nolina, Yucca*

### THE POLLINATORS...

**Butterflies:** Sisters, Checkerspot, Hairstreaks, Sulphurs, Swallowtails, Buckeyes, Skippers...

**Bees:** Solitary native bees, Bumblebees, Mason bees...

**Flies:** Hover Flies, Tachinid Flies...

**Moths:** Sphinx Moths, Silk Moths, Tiger Moths...

**Wasps:** non-stinging beneficials called Ichneumons

**Hummingbirds:** Anna's, our year-round resident, also Black-chinned, Costa's, Rufous and Allen's

\*\*The National Wildlife Federation certifies wildlife habitat gardens...  
Their website is a wonderful resource for ideas and information: [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)

**Further Reading:** Forgotten Pollinators, Buchman & Nabhan, 1996. The Habitat Garden Book, Bauer, 2001. Common Butterflies of California, Stewart, 1998.

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