

pollinator resource guide

Santa Fe is a **Bee City!** The City of Santa Fe has committed to protecting pollinators by becoming a Bee City USA affiliate. Visit beecitysantafe.com for more info.

Seasonal Blooms

early spring ↗ ————— ↖ summer ————— ↗ autumn



Sumac



Penstemon



Primrose



Aster



Globemallow

waterwise planting for pollinators

To create lasting, water-smart pollinator habitats, choose plants that consider the needs of pollinators and the plant species' ability to tolerate the arid climate of the Southwest. When planting for pollinators, keep in mind these crucial elements:

Plant Diversity

Provide blooms from spring to fall. Flowers with pollen and nectar are needed at all times of the year to support a diversity of pollinators. Different pollinators are active at different times of year. Bumblebees are active from early spring to late fall, while others may only be active for a few weeks in one season. A diversity of plants from sunflowers to cacti will feed many picky pollinators that rely on a single type of plant.

BE SURE TO ASK YOUR LOCAL NURSERY IF THEY OFFER PLANT DISCOUNTS FOR WATERWISE & POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PLANTS

Native Grasses & Shrubs

Include native grasses and shrubs in your pollinator garden. While flowers are important to pollinators, plants also provide shelter for nesting and overwintering. Caterpillars of butterflies and moths also eat leaves and stems of plants.

The Good "Weeds"

Many of our native wildflowers that are important for pollinators may be considered weeds. These plants grow in tough soil and survive on little water – which means they are extremely resilient and able to withstand climate change. Do you recognize these common native plants that grow just about everywhere in Santa Fe?



Milkweed



Cota



Gumweed

LEAVE THE LEAVES THIS FALL!

LEAVING LEAF LITTER & PLANT MATERIAL IN PLACE THROUGH WINTER PROTECTS INSECTS, REDUCES RAINWATER RUNOFF, & REDUCES SOIL EROSION.

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meet our high desert pollinators



Butterfly



Fly



Moth



Wasp



Beetle

Pollinators are animals that move pollen from one flower to another, which is essential for the reproduction of flowering plants. Some birds and bats are pollinators, but the majority of pollinators are insects.

pollen & allergies

Pollinator gardens do not increase allergy-related pollen. Plants that cause allergies like juniper, ragweed, and grasses do not rely on pollinators to reproduce. They are wind-pollinated and produce a lot of lightweight pollen that will float in the air. Wildflowers produce less pollen that is heavier and does not contribute to airborne pollen allergies.

The most important and efficient pollinators are bees. The honey bee is a non-native, domesticated species and is probably the most recognizable bee, but New Mexico is home to more than 1,000 species of bees! Do you know the names of these bees*?

santa fe's bees



*Bee ID answers: Longhorn bee (top left), leafcutter bee (center), bumble bee (top right), sweat bee (bottom left), and honey bee (bottom right).

pesticide protection

Many pesticides including insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides harm pollinators and other beneficial insects. Ask your nursery if they have plants that aren't treated with pesticides.

Adopt Integrated Pest Management practices in your yard (visit aces.nmsu.edu/ipm)

Accept some damage from pests – caterpillars become the butterflies and moths that visit flowers!

Learn more at xerces.org/pesticides

