Gardening for Bees - Seasonal Recommended Plant Lists:

The following lists are based on several years of evaluation and survey work done in Northern and Southern California by our UC research group. Plants are presented seasonally, and in alphabetical order, based on the same scheme used in Sunset Magazine’s Western Garden Book (2012), edited by Brenzel. Some information on California native plants is also found in Plants of the San Francisco Bay Region by Beidleman and Kosloff (University of California Press, 2003) and in Wildflowers of the Santa Monica Mountains by McAuley (Canyon Publications Co. CA, 1996).

Below you will find separate lists for Spring plants and Summer plants, as well as a key to the shorthand used for bee groups/species in the tables. If you have trouble printing this page, or if your browser is having trouble displaying it properly, there is an unstyled set of lists available. Finally, if you would like to have a portable copy of the lists, or perhaps send them to a friend, we have a nicely formatted PDF version available for download (Latest revision: January 2010). For more information, see the additional text at the bottom of this page.

Spring Plants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Plant Family</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Annual or Perennial</th>
<th>Pollen or Nectar</th>
<th>Main Bee Visitors</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arctostaphylos spp.</td>
<td>Manzanita</td>
<td>Eric.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>B, Ant</td>
<td>Visitation by bumble bees is low but consistent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achillea millefolium</td>
<td>Common Yarrow</td>
<td>Aster.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berberis spp.</td>
<td>Barberry</td>
<td>Berber.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Ant, Osm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borago officinalis</td>
<td>Borage</td>
<td>Borag.</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>H, B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendula spp.</td>
<td>Pot Marigold</td>
<td>Aster.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>B, H, Osm, Meg</td>
<td>Visitation is variable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenteria californica</td>
<td>Bush Anemone</td>
<td>Philad.</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>B, H, Meg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceanothus 'Julia Phelps' and 'Dark Star'</td>
<td>Wild lilac</td>
<td>Rham.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>B, sb, H</td>
<td>Excellent spring pollen source for many bee spp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceanothus 'Yankee Point'</td>
<td>Wild Lilac</td>
<td>Rham.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>B, Hb, Ant</td>
<td>Great ground cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'</td>
<td>Wild lilac</td>
<td>Rham.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>B, Hb, H</td>
<td>Bumble bees adore this plant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</td>
<td>Blue Blossom</td>
<td>Rham.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>B, H, Ant, sb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cercis occidentalis</td>
<td>West. Redbud</td>
<td>Fabac.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>X, Osm</td>
<td>Excellent nectar source, but short lived.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chilopsis linearis</td>
<td>Desert Willow</td>
<td>Bignon.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>B, X, Meg</td>
<td>Likes warm inland environments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarkia unguiculata</td>
<td>Elegant Clarkia</td>
<td>Onagr.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>B, Osm, Hb</td>
<td>Plant in 1-2 meter diameter patches for best attraction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collinsia heterophylla</td>
<td>Chinese Houses</td>
<td>Plantag.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Plant in shade or partial shade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coreopsis lanceolata</td>
<td>Lanceleaf Tickseed</td>
<td>Aster.</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Mel, H, Meg</td>
<td>Long flowering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coreopsis verticillata</td>
<td>Whorled Tickseed</td>
<td>Aster.</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Mel, H, Meg</td>
<td>Low growing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Echium candicans</td>
<td>Pride of Madeira</td>
<td>Borag.</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Hb, B, Ant, Osm</td>
<td>An attractive Spring nectar plant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Echium plantaginum</td>
<td>Salvation Jane</td>
<td>Borag.</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>B, Hb, Ant</td>
<td>No summer water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encelia californica</td>
<td>Bush Sunflower</td>
<td>Aster.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Mel, H, Meg, Hb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encelia farinosa</td>
<td>Brittlebush</td>
<td>Aster.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Wide var.</td>
<td>Good in So Cal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erigeron glaucus 'Wayne Roderick' and 'Bountiful'</td>
<td>Seaside Daisy</td>
<td>Aster.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>H, Cer</td>
<td>Dead-head flowers. Other cultivars less attractive. Likes coastal environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilia achilleifolia</td>
<td>California Gilia</td>
<td>Polem.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>B, Hb, And</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilia capitata</td>
<td>Globe Gilia</td>
<td>Polem.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>B, Hb, And</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helenium puberulum</td>
<td>Sneezeweed</td>
<td>Aster.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Meg, Mel</td>
<td>Mel. males sleep on flower heads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larrea tridentata</td>
<td>Creosote Bush</td>
<td>Zyg.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Wide var.</td>
<td>Great in So. Cal desert gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavandula spp.</td>
<td>Lavender</td>
<td>Lamiac.</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Hb, B, X, Meg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layia platyglossa</td>
<td>Tidytips</td>
<td>Aster.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Mel, Meg, B, Hb</td>
<td>Attracts at low levels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linaria purpurea</td>
<td>Toadflax</td>
<td>Plantag.</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Anthid, B, Hb, Meg, Ant</td>
<td>Attracts many bee species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marrubium vulgare</td>
<td>Horehound</td>
<td>Lamiac.</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Hb, Meg, B</td>
<td>Dead-headand water occasionally.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentzelia lindleyi</td>
<td>Blazing Star</td>
<td>Loas.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepeta spp.</td>
<td>Catnip</td>
<td>Lamiac.</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Hb, B, Osm, Ant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelargonium graveolens</td>
<td>Scented Geranium</td>
<td>Geran.</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Meg, Hb</td>
<td>Relatively low, but consistent, bee visitation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penstemon heterophyllus</td>
<td>Penstemon</td>
<td>Plantag.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>B, Osm</td>
<td>Plant in patches greater than one meter in diameter. Likes occasional water &amp; good drainage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penstemon 'midnight'</td>
<td>Midnight Penstemon</td>
<td>Scroph.</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>B, Ant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penstemon parryi</td>
<td>Desert Penstemon</td>
<td>Plantag.</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>B, Osm, X</td>
<td>Great in So. Cal desert gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phacelia californica</td>
<td>CA Phacelia</td>
<td>Borag.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>And, B, Osm</td>
<td>White flowers are small, but very attractive to bumble bees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phacelia campanularia</td>
<td>CA Desert Bluebells</td>
<td>Borag.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>B, Hb, Meg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phacelia cicutaria</td>
<td>Caterpillar Phacelia</td>
<td>Borag.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>B, Osm</td>
<td>Long flowering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phacelia distans</td>
<td>Wild Heliotrope</td>
<td>Borag.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Wide var.</td>
<td>Reseeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phacelia grandiflora</td>
<td>Large-flower phacelia</td>
<td>Borag.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>B, Hb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phacelia minor</td>
<td>California bluebell.</td>
<td>Borag.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Wide var.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Summer Plants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Plant Family</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Annual or Perennial</th>
<th>Pollen or Nectar</th>
<th>Main Bee Visitors</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phacelia tanacetifolia</td>
<td>Tansy Phacelia</td>
<td>Borag.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>B, And, Osm, Hb, Cer</td>
<td>One of the best pollen / nectar sources for several Spring bee species. Pollen is purple!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phacelia viscosa</td>
<td>Sticky Phacelia</td>
<td>Borag.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>B, Hb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvia brandegeei</td>
<td>Brandegee Sage</td>
<td>Lamiac.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>B, Osm, Hb, Ant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvia greggii</td>
<td>Autumn Sage</td>
<td>Lamiac.</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>X, Hb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvia 'Indigo Spires'</td>
<td>Salvia Indigo Spires</td>
<td>Lamiac.</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>B, X, Hb, Meg, Ant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvia mellifera</td>
<td>Black Sage</td>
<td>Lamiac.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>B, Osm, Hb, Ant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sphaeralcea ambigua</td>
<td>Desert Globemallow</td>
<td>Malvac.</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Wide var.</td>
<td>Long flowering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbena lasiostachys</td>
<td>West. Verbena</td>
<td>Verben.</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Hb, Ant, B</td>
<td>Dead-head and water regularly to maintain flowering.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scientific Name**

- **Agastache spp.** Mint, Agastache
- **Aster x frikartii** Monch
- **Bidens ferulifolia** Bidens
- **Calamintha spp.** Calamint
- **Caryopteris incana** Bluebeard
- **Coreopsis lanceolata** Lanceleaf Tickseed
- **Cosmos bipinnatus & Cosmos sulphureus** Cosmos
- **Cucurbitaceae** Pumpkin, Squash, Zucchini
- **Duranta erecta** Skyflower
- **Echinacea purpurea** Purple Coneflower
- **Encelia californica** Bush Sunflower
- **Encelia farinosa** Brittlebush
- **Erigeron glaucus “Wayne Roderick”** Seaside Daisy

**Common Name**

- Mint, Agastache
- Monch
- Bidens
- Calamint
- Bluebeard
- Lanceleaf Tickseed
- Cosmos
- Pumpkin, Squash, Zucchini
- Skyflower
- Purple Coneflower
- Bush Sunflower
- Brittlebush
- Seaside Daisy

**Plant Family**

- Borag.
- Lamiac.
- Aster.
- Verb.
- Cucrbit.
- CA
- CA
- CA
- CA
- CA
- CA

**Origin**

- CA
- CA
- CA
- CA
- CA
- CA
- CA
- CA

**Annual or Perennial**

- Ann
- Per
- Exotic
- Exotic
- Exotic
- Exotic
- Exotic
- CA

**Pollen or Nectar**

- P/N
- P/N
- Per
- P/N
- P/N
- P/N
- P/N
- Ann

**Main Bee Visitors**

- B, Hb
- B, Hb
- B, Osm, Hb, Ant
- B, Anthid, Hb
- X, Hb
- B, X, Hb, Meg, Ant
- B, Osm, Hb, Ant
- Mel, Hb, B
- Mel, H, Osm
- Mel, H, Meg
- Mel, Hb, H, Meg
- Hb, P
- B, Hb, Ant
- Mel, Meg, H
- Mel, Hb, H, Meg
- Hb, P
- B, And, Osm, Hb, Cer

**Notes**

- Dead-head
- Flowers all year, but mostly attractive in Summer. Likes modest water.
- Attracts many bee species.
- Likes modest water.
- Likes modest water.
- Best cultivars: “Flying Saucers,” “Sunny Day,” and “Tequila Sunrise”
- Long flowering
- Dead-head; likes modest water.
- Meg’s also use leaves to build nests. Low visitation.
- Large patches attract best.
- Becomes woody and bushy in time. Reseeds easily.
- Good in So Cal
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Bloom Period</th>
<th>Pollinators</th>
<th>Other Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eriogonum fasciculatum</td>
<td>Eriogonum fasciculatum</td>
<td>Polygonaceae</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Hb, Meg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eriogonum grande rubescens</td>
<td>Eriogonum grande rubescens</td>
<td>Polygonaceae</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Meg, H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eriogonum latifolium</td>
<td>Eriogonum latifolium</td>
<td>Polygonaceae</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>B, H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eriogonum nudum</td>
<td>Eriogonum nudum</td>
<td>Polygonaceae</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Hb, B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaillardia x grandiflora</td>
<td>Gaillardia x grandiflora</td>
<td>Asterales</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Hb, Meg, Mel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaillardia &quot;Oranges &amp; Lemons&quot;</td>
<td>Gaillardia &quot;Oranges &amp; Lemons&quot;</td>
<td>Asterales</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Hb, Mel, Meg, H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grindelia hirsutula</td>
<td>Grindelia hirsutula</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Meg, Mel, Hb, H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grindelia stricta</td>
<td>Grindelia stricta</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Meg, Mel, Hb, H, B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helianthus 'Mardi Gras'</td>
<td>Helianthus 'Mardi Gras'</td>
<td>Compositae</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Meg, Mel, Hb, H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helianthus annuus</td>
<td>Helianthus annuus</td>
<td>Compositae</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Meg, Mel, Hb, B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helianthus 'Lemon Queen'</td>
<td>Helianthus 'Lemon Queen'</td>
<td>Compositae</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Several species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavandula spp</td>
<td>Lavandula spp</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Hb, B, X, Meg, Ant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linaria purpurea</td>
<td>Linaria purpurea</td>
<td>Plantaginaceae</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Anthid, B, Hb, Osm, Ant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotus corniculatus</td>
<td>Lotus corniculatus</td>
<td>Fabaceae</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Meg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotus scoparius</td>
<td>Lotus scoparius</td>
<td>Fabaceae</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Hb, B, Meg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madia elegans densiflora</td>
<td>Madia elegans densiflora</td>
<td>Compositae</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Mel, Hb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marrubium vulgare</td>
<td>Marrubium vulgare</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Hb, B, Meg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentha spicata</td>
<td>Mentha spicata</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Various bee groups(sb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monardella odoratissima</td>
<td>Monardella odoratissima</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>B, Osm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepeta x faassenii</td>
<td>Nepeta x faassenii</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Hb, B, Mel, Osm, Ant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Origanum officinalis</td>
<td>Origanum officinalis</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Hb, Meg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penstemon heterophyllus</td>
<td>Penstemon heterophyllus</td>
<td>Plantaginaceae</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>B, H, Osm, Ant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perovskia atriplicifolia</td>
<td>Perovskia atriplicifolia</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Hb, B, Meg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosmarinus officinalis</td>
<td>Rosmarinus officinalis</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Hb, H, Meg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rudbeckia hirta</td>
<td>Rudbeckia hirta</td>
<td>Compositae</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Ann/Per</td>
<td>P/N</td>
<td>Mel, Meg, H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvia chamaedryoides</td>
<td>Salvia chamaedryoides</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>B, Hb, Anthid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Salvia uliginosa  
**Bog Sage**  
**Lamiac.**  
**Exotic**  
**Per**  
**N**  
**X, Hb, Meg, Cer**  
Likes consistent water. Also attracts hummingbirds and Monarch butterflies.

Scabiosa atropurpurea  
**Pincushion flower**  
**Dipsac.**  
**Exotic**  
**Per**  
**P/N**  
**Mel, Hb**

Senecio cineraria  
**Dusty Miller**  
**Aster.**  
**Exotic**  
**Per**  
**P/N**  
**Meg, Hb**

Solidago californica  
**Goldenrod**  
**Aster**  
**CA**  
**Per**  
**P/N**  
**H, Meg, Hb**

Sphaeralcea ambiguax  
**Desert Globemallow**  
**Malvac.**  
**CA**  
**Per**  
**P/N**  
**Wide var.**  
Long flowering

Teucrium x lucidrys  
**Wall Germander**  
**Lamiac.**  
**Exotic**  
**Per**  
**N**  
**H, Ant, Xylo**

Thymus spp.  
**Thyme**  
**Lamiac.**  
**Exotic**  
**Per**  
**N**  
**Sb, Meg**

Verbena lasiostachys  
**Verbena**  
**Verben.**  
**CA**  
**Per**  
**N**  
**Hb, Ant**  
Dead-head and water regularly to maintain flowering.

Vitex agnus-castus  
**Chaste Tree**  
**Verben.**  
**Exotic**  
**Per**  
**P/N**  
**Xylo, B, Meg, Hb**

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**Key To Bee Groups**

**B**  
Bombus (Bumble Bee)

**Anth**  
Anthidium (Megachilidae)

**sb**  
One of the many varieties of small bees.

**X**  
Xylocopa (Carpenter Bee)

**Osm**  
Osmia (Megachilidae)

**H**  
Halictid

**And**  
Andrenid

**Meg**  
Megachilid (Leaf Cutter and Mason Bees)

**Ant**  
Anthophorid (Digger Bees)

**Hb**  
European Honey Bee

**Mel**  
Melissodes (an Anthophorid)

**Cer**  
Ceratina (Small Carpenter Bee)

**P**  
Peponapis (Squash Bee)

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**Additional Information on the Seasonal Recommended Plant Lists**

Most information used to create these lists (For example; plant form, flower color, soil and cultivation requirements) can be found in the Sunset Garden Book. Local nurseries can also be helpful with specific information. All of the plants listed here will flower within one or two years; most during the first year of planting. Other evaluated plants (for example, large shrubs and trees) known to be attractive to bees can be found in our exhaustive Complete Plant List [PDF] (last compiled December, 2003).

For best results in bee gardening, we recommend that advanced planning takes place to insure that continual bee floral food will be available for both Spring and Summer seasons. There are distinct groups of bees present in Spring and in Summer; some groups can also be observed year round. In our experimental gardens in the Bay Area we always plant a minimum of 10-15 diverse bee plants each season. Higher bee diversity and abundance occurs when gardens have a
rich assortment of bee plants. It also appears that bees remain longer in a garden if plant diversity is high. Finally, we find that patch size of about 1 meter in diameter or larger is best for keeping foraging bees visiting a given plant species or cultivar. Smaller patch sizes, of usually attractive plants, will often be ignored.

Once your bee garden is established, be sure to take time to closely observe the different bee groups/species that will visit your plants. Each bee species behaves slightly differently than all others, which helps in identification. Bee watching can be as enjoyable as bird watching once your eyes get adjusted to their movements. Note also that certain bee groups/species will be predictably found on certain plant types.