

UC DAVIS



ARBORETUM AND  
PUBLIC GARDEN



## Bees in your Garden

### *Did you know?*

- Honey bees are NOT native—they were brought from Europe with early settlers.
- Honeybees live in hives but most of our native bees live solitary lives and they make nests in wood or in the soil.
- Native bees don't make honey, they form pollen "bread" for their young. Native bees have only a few short weeks to mate, create nests and produce the next generation.
- Male native bees do not actively collect pollen, only sip nectar.



### *Be bee friendly ...*

- Select plants with flowers of different sizes, shapes, and colors to accommodate many types of bees. Plant in patches a yard or more across and you will help bees be efficient resource collectors.
- Provide nesting boxes for wood nesters and areas of bare soil for ground nesting bees.
- By offering a variety of food, shelter, and water you will help conserve these very important pollinators.





# Plants to Attract Bees

Native bees are critical to the health of our natural, ornamental, and agricultural landscapes. Bee Gardens should contain a variety of plants with pollen and nectar flowers when the bees are active, February-October.

## Winter and Spring



*Ceanothus*  
California lilac



*Cercis occidentalis*  
western redbud



*Rosmarinus officinalis*  
rosemary

## Summer



*Aster 'Mönch' x frikartii*  
hybrid aster



*Solidago californica* 'Cascade Creek'  
California goldenrod



*Gaillardia x grandiflora*  
blanket flower

## Fall



*Salvia greggii*  
autumn sage



*Eriogonum fasciculatum*  
California buckwheat



*Hylotelephium spectabile*  
'Autumn Joy' (synonymous with *Sedum spectabile* 'Autumn Joy')  
Autumn Joy Joy sedum

## References

Frankie G., R. Thorp, R. Coville and B. Ertter. 2014. *California Bees and Blooms*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

LeBuhn, Gretchen. 2013. *Field Guide to Common Bees of California: Including Bees of the Western United States* (California Natural History Guides). Berkeley: University of California Press.

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