

California Natives for a Bee Garden

Professor Gordon Frankie has been studying a great variety of plants for their bee value in gardens in urban settings.

Native plants that proved to be top draws for attracting a diversity of native bees in an early iteration of his Berkeley bee garden, in general order of value:

Tansy Phacelia, ***Phacelia tanacetifolia***. Perhaps the easiest California native annual wildflower to grow; often over 2' tall, it is sometimes grown as a cover crop in agricultural settings. Tansy Phacelia reseeds readily and looks good *en masse*.

Creambush, ***Holodiscus discolor***. An easy-to-grow medium-large deciduous flowering shrub.

Pt. Reyes horkelia, ***Horkelia marinensis***. An easy-to-grow native perennial; not particularly showy.

Ceanothus 'Julia Phelps'. A popular, showy evergreen medium-large flowering shrub.

Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'. A popular, showy evergreen flowering large shrub or small tree. Grows very fast.

Buck Brush, ***Ceanothus cuneatus***. An easy evergreen flowering shrub; most are white-flowered.

Rosy Buckwheat, ***Eriogonum grande*** var. ***rubescens***. One of the most popular and useful native perennials.

Globe Gilia, ***Gilia capitata***. An easy and showy annual wildflower.

Grindelia groundcover sp. Yellow daisies on a tough flowering groundcover.

Catalina Ironwood, ***Lyonothamnus floribundus*** ssp. ***asplenifolius***. A most useful flowering evergreen native tree for small gardens.

Lindley's Blazing Star, ***Mentzelia lindleyi***. A showy and fairly easy to grow annual wildflower.

Coyote Mint, ***Monardella villosa***. Another useful and fairly popular native perennial.

Purple Sage, ***Salvia leucophylla***. A popular flowering shrub.

Hedge Nettle, ***Stachys bullata***. A native mint requiring less water than the true mints. Improves with cultivation; useful confined to a small bed. Dead-heading and occasional irrigation encourages flowering; cut any portions that get ratty-looking to the ground to re-generate fresh foliage.

Toyon, ***Heteromeles arbutifolia***. A popular flowering and fruiting medium-large evergreen native shrub.