

# California Native Plants Supporting Bumblebees

Bumblebees have been reported in alarming decline throughout North America, including California.

Native plants in the following genera are most frequently visited by **bumblebees**. This is a ranked list, in order of attractiveness, with the most attractive first:

Thistles (***Cirsium***).  
Rabbit brush (***Chrysothamnus*** and ***Ericameria***).  
Sunflower (***Helianthus***).  
Lupine (***Lupinus***).  
Clover (***Trifolium***).  
Wild buckwheat (***Eriogonum***).  
Goldenbush (***Isocoma***).  
California lilac (***Ceanothus***).  
Aster (***Aster***).  
Goldenrod (***Solidago***).  
Nightshade (***Solanum***).  
Phacelia (***Phacelia***).  
Beardtongue (***Penstemon***).  
Monardella (***Monardella***).  
Rhododendron (***Rhododendron***).  
Gooseberries and Currants (***Ribes***).  
Manzanita (***Arctostaphylos***).  
Locoweed (***Astragalus***).  
Sage (***Salvia***).  
Blackberry (***Rubus***).  
Groundsel (***Senecio***).  
Trefoil (***Lotus***).  
Milkweed (***Asclepias***).

— from “Bumble Bees: Boisterous Pollinators of Native California Plants” by Robin W. Thorp, Peter C. Schroeder, and Carol S. Ferguson, **Fremontia**, Volume 30:3-4, July/October 2002.