

Pollinator Garden



To create a pollinator garden of your own, consider the following:

What you may see:



Caterpillars



Monarch butterflies



Queen butterflies



Bees



Moths



Ladybugs



Bats

A pollinator garden may be a great substitute for hard-to-irrigate grass areas. You can save water, help pollinators, and enjoy a beautiful transformation.

Milkweed, a common host plant for Monarch butterflies, can be purchased in a nursery or grown by seed. Some research suggests that pesticides applied commonly at nurseries can be harmful to pollinators. Milkweed does have a natural toxin to keep predators away - keep this in mind if you have small children or pets.

Consider flowering plants, like desert marigold and Baja fairy dusters, that bloom almost year round. You can also choose a variety of plants that bloom in different seasons. Several common plants in desert landscaping, like lantana and ocotillo, are also great choices.

Drip irrigation or mud puddles are important sources of water for pollinators. Make sure there are shallow or sloping sides to your water feature so that insects don't drown.

Many herbs can be good for pollinators - and for the kitchen! Dual purpose plants are a great use of water.



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Drought-tolerant Plants

The native flowering plants that attract pollinators also use much less water than grass. Consider converting unused grassy areas to save on your monthly water bill. Water conservation in our desert also helps promote sustainability. Many water agencies, including Desert Water Agency, have programs to help customers save water inside and out.



milkweed



penstemon



Baja fairy duster



chuparosa

Native & Honey Bees

Native and honey bees are amazing little insects! These incredible pollinators help feed the world!



Honey bees alone pollinate crops worth billions of dollars. In fact, the entire California almond crop is reliant on honey bee pollination! On top of that 1,400 different native bee species pollinate our natural wild spaces and supplement our agricultural pollination needs. That is a whole lot of pollination our busy little friends do!

Butterflies & Hummingbirds

Hummingbirds and butterflies have specific plants that they love to sip nectar from. Long tube-like, especially red, flowers draw hummingbirds in, while clustered flower heads are favorites for butterflies. Feed caterpillars and you'll have wonderful butterflies! You can find lists of native host plants for all sorts of beautiful butterflies. Add some nectar plants and you'll be sure to have butterflies and hummingbirds floating through your garden!

Metamorphosis

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1. Butterflies begin life as an egg on a plant. Monarch and Queen butterflies use milkweed plants.



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2. The eggs hatch as caterpillars that eat from plants nearby.



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3. After eating enough, the caterpillar forms a pupa or chrysalis.

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4. The butterfly emerges once it has fully formed wings.



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