



Plan Your Pollinator Paradise

This guide provides an example garden plan and resources for designing your own pollinator* garden for inland Southern California. For more inspiration, visit the demonstration Pollinator Garden at the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District's LandUse Learning Center and see labeled, local native plants in the Native Habitat area.

Pollinators are in peril, and you can help.

1. Don't use weed and bug killers.

These chemicals often have unintended consequences for other organisms. Most garden and lawn pest problems can be resolved with nontoxic alternatives.

2. Provide host plants and bee nesting sites.

Some butterflies and moths need specific "host" plants to feed on during their caterpillar (larval) stage. Plant host plants of pollinators that are native to inland SoCal. For example, our Western Monarch butterfly population has been in steep decline due to the loss of its host plant. You can help the Monarch by planting native narrow-leaf milkweed, *Asclepias fascicularis*.

Please make sure your milkweed is native. Do not grow tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*), since it may carry disease harmful to Monarchs.

Learn more in *Steps for Success with Milkweed and Monarchs* for Inland Southern California Valleys: www.rcrcd.org/files/65eb89ba5/2020_Monarch_Milkweed_for_SoCal.pdf

Unlike honeybees that form colonies, most of our native bees live individually with each female constructing her own nest. Native bees need either open, sandy soils; brush piles; snags (dead trees); or old tree stumps for nesting sites. Consider leaving some wild areas in your yard or supplementing nesting spots with "bee houses" or bundles of hollow plant stems.

3. Create wildflower-rich habitat in your own yard with local native plants.

Pollinators have evolved with native plants that are best adapted to the local growing season, climate, and soils. Most pollinators feed on specific plant types and species: hummingbirds sip nutrient-rich nectar from long, tubular flowers, while butterflies need smaller, more open-faced blooms.



Tropical Milkweed
Asclepias curassavica

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Bumblebee on a Black Sage flower



Tarantula Hawk pollinating a Buckwheat plant.

Native plants are accustomed to growing with winter and spring rains, so group plants according to similar watering needs. Some native plants will die if given too much irrigation during their dormancy during hot, dry summers.

Wash hands immediately after handling milkweed.

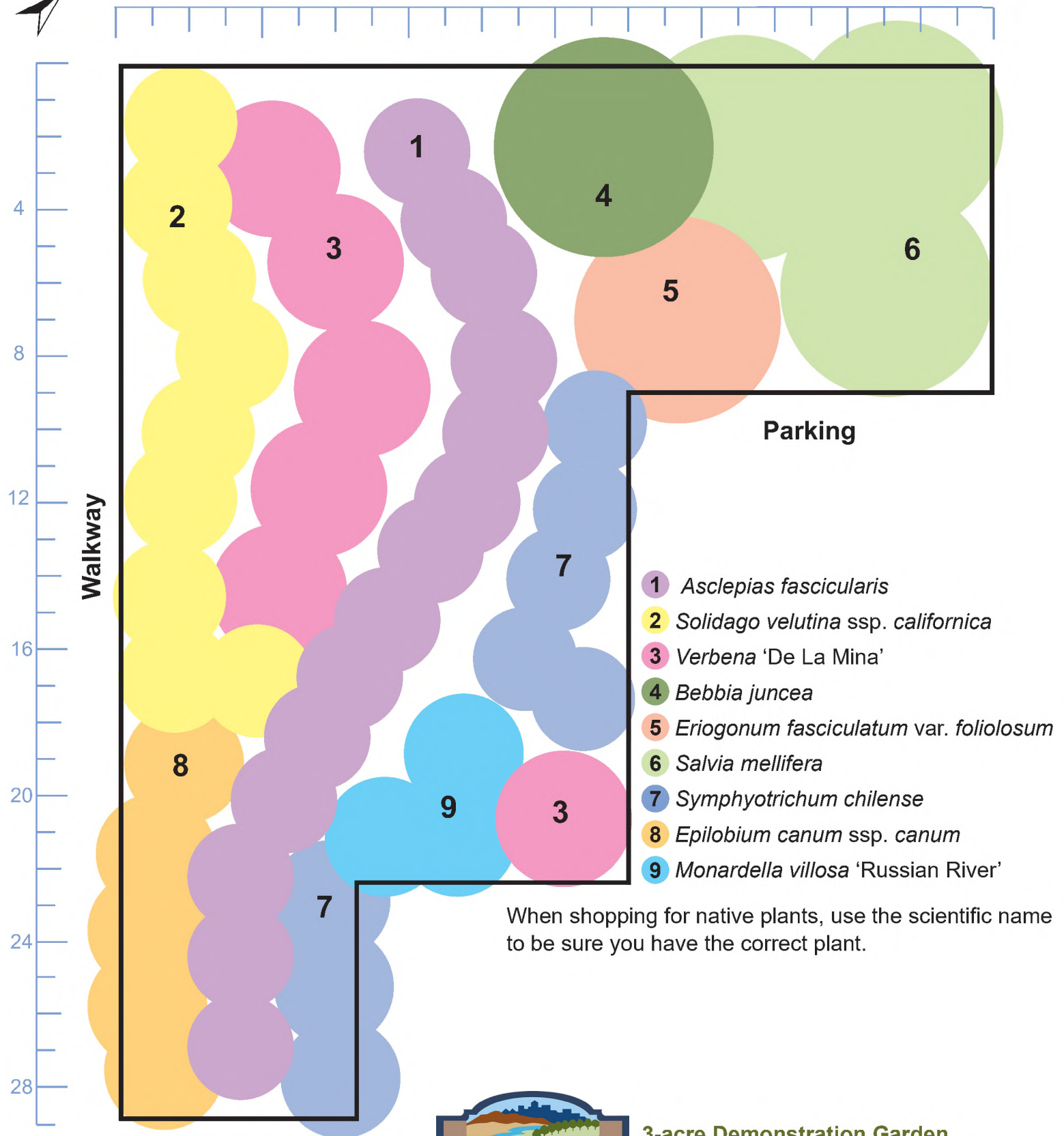
*When wind, water, insects or animals move pollen, the receiving plant is fertilized and can then produce full-bodied fruit and fertile seeds. Birds, bats, and flying insects, including butterflies, moths, bees, beetles, flies, and wasps, are attracted to flowers for food, then transfer pollen.

Native flowers Cream Cups and Gold Fields in top border. Photo © 2013 Jennifer Iyer

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LandUse Learning Center Sample Pollinator Garden



1/4 inch = 1 foot



3-acre Demonstration Garden

Open Daily, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

4500 Glenwood Dr., Riverside, 92501

Pollinator Garden Plants



1 Narrow-leaf Milkweed
Asclepias fascicularis
Monarch butterfly host plant



2 California Goldenrod
Solidago velutina ssp. *californica*



3 Verbena 'De La Mina'
Verbena lilacina



4 Sweetbush
Bebbia juncea



5 Eastern Mojave Buckwheat
Eriogonum fasciculatum var. *foliolosum*



6 Black Sage
Salvia mellifera



7 California Aster
Symphotrichum chilense



8 California Fuchsia
Epilobium canum ssp. *canum*



9 Coyote Mint
Monardella villosa 'Russian River'



Resources

- You can find the best native plants to support butterflies and moths for your California region at *The Butterfly Net: Lepidoptera Conservation Tool*: ctcosma.shinyapps.io/the_butterfly_net/ . This tool helps find the best nectar plants, which provide resources for adult butterflies and moths as they pollinate, as well as the best host plants, which provide food for the caterpillars. After you input your location, a list of the top ten or more native plants for butterflies and/or moths will appear. To see the adult butterflies and/or caterpillars that the plant supports, click on the plant's name.

For example, here are some of the most commonly used plants by butterflies and moths for a five-mile radius near downtown Riverside:

Common Sunflower, *Helianthus annuus*

Deerweed, *Acmispon glaber* var. *brevialatus*

Common Yarrow, *Achillea millefolium*

Seep Monkeyflower, *Erythranthe guttata*

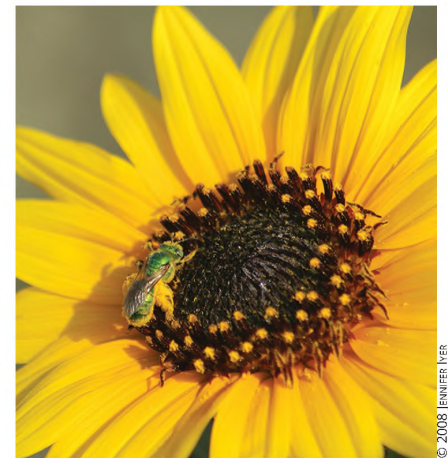
California Buckwheat, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*

Narrow-leaf Milkweed, *Asclepias fascicularis*

Western False Indigo, *Amorpha fruticosa*

Black Sage, *Salvia mellifera*

- Learn more about recommended plants for your locale at the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Calscape: www.calscape.org . Plants that are native are naturally adapted to our climate and, once established, most do not require watering to survive. Normally, they require less maintenance, fertilizers and pesticides. Try the Calscape Garden Planner to find appropriate native plants for your garden with just four questions at: <https://gardenplanner.calscape.org/>.
- Search for a larger list of plants that are also good for bees and fire safety at Calflora *What Grows Here?*: <https://calflora.org/entry/help/wgh-help.html>
- The Xerces Society: www.xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center
- Pollinator Partnership: www.pollinator.org



Sweat Bee on a Common Sunflower

Where to Buy Native Plants

El Nativo Growers, Azusa (626) 969-8449, www.elnativogrowers.com

Environmental Nature Center Native Plant Nursery, Newport Beach, (949) 645-8489, www.encenter.org

Fremontia Horticultural, Ontario, (909) 673-0600, www.fremontiahorticultural.com

Grow Native Nursery at California Botanic Garden, Claremont (909) 625-8767, www.calbg.org

Las Pilitas Nursery, Santa Margarita, (805) 438-5992, www.laspilitas.com

Moosa Creek Nursery, Valley Center, (760) 749-3216, www.moosacreeknursery.com

Theodore Payne Nursery, Sun Valley, (818) 768-1802, www.theodorepayne.org/

Tree of Life Nursery, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 728-0685, www.californianativeplants.com

CNPS Riverside-San Bernardino chapter plant sales:

www.facebook.com/CaliforniaNativePlantSocietyRiversideSanBernardino

Periodically, the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD) sells native plants and needs volunteers to help plant milkweed or monitor Monarch caterpillars. Follow www.facebook.com/RCRCD/ for upcoming opportunities or visit our website at www.rcrcd.org .



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