

Resources for Pollinator Gardening in the San Francisco Bay Area

- The best local resource is the Urban Bee Lab at UC Berkeley; they have a marvelous list at:

<http://www.helpabee.org/best-bee-plants-for-california.html>

These lists tell you whether plants are annual or perennial and whether they have nectar (and therefore also likely visited by butterflies/hummingbirds) or are used more for their pollen (bees).

Note that plants are only listed as annual or perennial. But, the term perennial refers to any plant that grows for at least three years, and a number of woody shrubs and small or even medium-sized trees are included in the list. Some examples are *Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'*, *Cercis occidentalis* (Western redbud) and *Vitex agnus-castus* (chaste tree).

- As you are selecting pollinator plants, one caution is that not all plants have the same water requirements. For best water conservation and plant health, plant in hydrozones, grouping plants with similar water requirements. To plan your hydrozones, look up their water requirements using another excellent online resource, the Water Use Classification of Landscape Species (WUCOLS IV):

<http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/>

- Another resource is the searchable database of the UC Davis Arboretum located at:

http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/plant_search.aspx

This database contains more information than the PDF handout I've provided for the Sustainability Fair, including plant characteristics and need for supplemental summer watering.

- Dr. Gordon Frankie, Dr. Robbin Thorp and others have a book coming out very soon called: ***California Bees and Blooms: A Guide for Gardeners and Naturalists*** – due October 31, 2014, by Gordon W. Frankie (Author), Robbin W. Thorp (Author), & 2 others.

This book will be very useful for our area for learning more about our important native pollinators as well as the plants that support them.

- If butterflies are your passion, I recommend Dr. Art Shapiro's Butterfly Site where he has a nice article on butterfly plants and gardening at:

<http://butterfly.ucdavis.edu/doc/garden/valley>

It also contains a searchable database for use when identifying the butterflies in your yard.

- For hummingbird enthusiasts, I recommend a nice article from the Las Pilitas Nursery website at:

<http://www.laspilitas.com/garden/hummingbird.html>

The photos alone are worth a visit to the site. And remember....different animals may share many of these plants depending on size, shape, color and availability of nectar and pollen.