

# Perennial Plants for Pollinators



**BE BOLD.** Shape the Future.  
College of Agricultural, Consumer  
and Environmental Sciences

Integrated Pest and  
Pollinator Management Center

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# Create your own pollinator habitat!

- Diversity is key!
- Plant flowers with different bloom periods to provide for both insects that are active early in the year and those that are active in the fall.
- Aim for 3-5 species for each season.
- Include different flower colors and flower shapes.
- Plant both annual and perennial plants.
- Include perennial grasses, which add nesting material for bees and may be host plants to caterpillars.



## Benefits of using perennial plants in your landscape:

- Provide floral resources yearly (some perennials take several years before they produce flowers – just be patient with them)
- Many can survive on lower amounts of water (once established)
- Lower maintenance in the long term since there is less of a need to replant each year.



# Upright Prairie Coneflower (*Ratibida columnifera*)

**Flower Color:** Yellow to Red

**Flowering Season:** Spring to  
Fall

**Flower Shape:** Disk

**Height:** 1-3 ft

**Light:** Full Sun

**Moisture:** Medium

**Supports:**

Small and large bees

Large wasps



MacDougal  
Verbena  
(*Verbena  
macdougalii*)

**Flower Color:** Purple

**Flowering Season:** Late Spring  
to Fall

**Flower Shape:** Tubular

**Height:** 2-3 ft

**Light:** Full Sun to Part Shade

**Moisture:** Medium

**Supports:**

Small and large bees

Large wasps



# Giant Hyssop (*Agastache pallidiflora*)

**Flower Color:** Purple

**Flowering Season:** Summer

**Flower Shape:** Tubular

**Height:** 1-3 ft

**Light:** Full Sun

**Moisture:** Medium

**Supports:**

Small and large bees

Bumble bees



# Blue Sage (*Salvia azurea*)

**Flower Color:** Blue

**Flowering Season:** Late  
Summer to Fall

**Flower Shape:** Tubular

**Height:** 3-5 ft

**Light:** Full Sun

**Moisture:** Low

**Supports:**

Small and large bees  
Bumblebees





Butterfly  
Milkweed  
(*Asclepias  
tuberosa*)

**Flower Color:** Orange

**Flowering Season:** Late  
Summer to Fall

**Flower Shape:** Trumpet

**Height:** 1-2.5 ft

**Light:** Full Sun

**Moisture:** Low

**Supports:**

Small bees

Small wasps





# White Prairie Clover

(*Dalea  
candida*)

**Flower Color:** White

**Flowering Season:** Summer

**Flower Shape:** Cylinder

**Height:** 1-2 ft

**Light:** Full Sun

**Moisture:** Medium

**Supports:**

Small and large bees

Small and large wasps



## Englemann Daisy (*Engelmannia peristenia*)

**Flower Color:** Yellow

**Flowering Season:** Spring to  
Fall

**Flower Shape:** Disk

**Height:** 1.5-2 ft

**Light:** Full Sun

**Moisture:** Medium

**Supports:**

Small and large bees

Large wasps

Syrphid flies



James  
Buckwheat  
(*Eriogonum  
jamesii*)

**Flower Color:** White

**Flowering Season:** Summer

**Flower Shape:** White

**Height:** 0.5-1 ft

**Light:** Full Sun

**Moisture:** Low

**Supports:**

Small bees

Small and large wasps



# Wild Bergamont (*Monarda fistulosa*)

**Flower Color:** Purple

**Flowering Season:** Summer

**Flower Shape:** Tubular

**Height:** 2-4 ft

**Light:** Full Sun to Part Shade

**Moisture:** Medium

**Supports:**

Small and large bees

Bumble bees

Large wasps



# Showy Milkweed

(*Asclepias speciosa*)

**Flower Color:** Pink

**Flowering Season:** Summer

**Flower Shape:** Sicker

**Height:** 1.5-3 ft

**Light:** Full Sun

**Moisture:** Medium

**Supports:**

Small and large bees

Small and large wasps

Ladybugs



# Purple Prairie Clover (*Dalea purpurea*)

**Flower Color:** Purple

**Flowering Season:** Summer

**Flower Shape:** Cylinder

**Height:** 1-3 ft

**Light:** Full Sun

**Moisture:** Low

**Supports:**

Small and large bees

Bumble bees

Large wasps



## Palmer's Penstemon (*Penstemon palmeri*)

**Flower Color:** White and pink

**Flowering Season:** Spring to Early  
Summer

**Flower Shape:** Tubular

**Height:** 4-7 ft

**Light:** Full Sun

**Moisture:** Low

**Supports:**

Small bees

Bumble bees

Small and large wasps

Ladybugs

Syrphid flies





# Desert Penstemon (*Penstemon pseudospectabilis*)

**Flower Color:** Pink

**Flowering Season:** Spring to Summer

**Flower Shape:** Tubular

**Height:** 2-3 ft

**Light:** Full Sun

**Moisture:** Low

**Supports:**

Small bees

Bumble bees

Small to large wasps

Ladybugs



Red Dome  
Blanketflower  
(*Gaillardia  
pinnatifida*)

**Flower Color:** Yellow

**Flowering Season:** Spring to  
Fall

**Flower Shape:** Disk

**Height:** 1-2 ft

**Light:** Full Sun

**Moisture:** Low

**Supports:**

Small and large bees

Large wasps



Broadleaf  
Milkweed  
(*Asclepias latifolia*)

**Flower Color:** Pale green

**Flowering Season:** Summer

**Flower Shape:** Sickle

**Height:** 2-3 ft

**Light:** Full Sun

**Moisture:** Low

**Supports:**

Small and large bees

Small and large wasps



Lanceleaf  
Coreopsis  
(*Coreopsis  
lanceolata*)

**Flower Color:** Yellow

**Flowering Season:** Late Spring  
to Summer

**Flower Shape:** Disk

**Height:** 1-2.5 ft

**Light:** Full Sun


**Moisture:** Medium

**Supports:**

Small and large bees

Small and large wasps



A close-up photograph of a Copper Globemallow plant. The image shows several bright orange flowers with five petals and prominent yellow stamens. The flowers are arranged in a vertical cluster along a green stem. The leaves are green and have a serrated, lobed appearance. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a garden or field setting.

Copper Globemallow  
(*Sphaeralcea*  
*angustifolia*)

**Flower Color:** Orange

**Flowering Season:** Spring to  
Fall

**Flower Shape:** Bowl

**Height:** 2-3 ft

**Light:** Full Sun to Part Shade

**Moisture:** Low

**Supports:**

Small and large bees

Small and large wasps

# Riddell's Ragwort (*Senecio riddelli*)

**Flower Color:** Yellow

**Flowering Season:** Fall

**Flower Shape:** Disk

**Height:** 1-3 ft

**Light:** Full Sun

**Moisture:** Low

**Supports:**

Small Bees

Bumble Bees

Large Wasps

Ladybugs

Syrphid Flies



Rocky Mountain  
Penstemon  
(*Penstemon strictus*)

**Flower Color:** Purple

**Flowering Season:** Late Spring to  
Summer

**Flower Shape:** Tubular

**Height:** 1-3 ft

**Light:** Part Shade

**Moisture:** Low

**Supports:**

Small bees

Bumble bees

Small and large wasps

Ladybugs

