# Create your own pollinator habitat

To best encourage pollinators and other beneficial insects (i.e. natural enemies),

- Plant a diversity of plants with different bloom seasons to provide for insects that are active early in the year and those active in the fall.

- Include different flower colors and flower shapes. Insects use these to navigate while searching for resources.

- Plant annual and perennial plants.

While perennial plants can take longer to establish than annual plants, they offer several benefits:

- Providing floral resources yearly (some perennials may take several years before they produce flowers – just be patient with them)

- Many can survive on lower amounts of water (once established)

- Lower maintenance since there is no need to replant each year
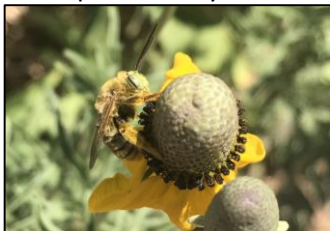
Grasses

Grasses in pollinator habitat not only add texture, but they are also important to habitat. Grasses can provide nesting material for bees; some are host plants to caterpillars. Add a mix of cool season and warm season grasses. Cool season grasses grow in the spring, while warm season grasses grow in the summer. For example, Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*) and Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*) are cool season grasses, while Sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*) is a warm season grass.

Additional Resources
Learn more about pollinators:
www.fws.gov/pollinators/

Learn about the different native bee families:
Pocket Guide to the Native Bees of New Mexico
aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/bees/

Learn about the other good bugs you might find visiting your flowers:
Backyard Beneficial Insects in New Mexico -
aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_h/H172/

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Planting for Pollinators

The perennial flowers planted in this flower bed are examples of flowers that can be included in your pollinator planting; however, many other species may be used or even better suited for your landscape.

Name	Family	Bloom Color	Flower Shape	Blooming Season	Benefits
Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*)	Rosaceae (Rose Family)	White	Disk	Summer	Bees, wasps
Beardlip penstemon (*Penstemon barbatus*)	Scrophulariaceae (Figwort family)	Red	Tubular	Summer to fall	Hummingbirds
Blanketflower (*Gaillardia aristata*)	Asteraceae (Aster family)	Red	Disk	Spring to fall	Bees, wasps
Bush morning-glory (*Ipomoea leptophylla*)	Convolvulaceae (Morning-glory family)	Purple	Trumpet	Summer	Hummingbirds, bees, butterflies
Butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)	Asclepiadaceae (Milkweed family)	Orange	Trumpet	Summer to fall	Bees, wasps, butterflies Larval host plant: Monarch and queen
Engelmann's daisy (*Engelmannia peristenia*)	Asteraceae (Aster family)	Yellow	Disk	Spring to fall	Bees, wasps, syrphid flies
Horsetail milkweed (*Asclepias subverticillata*)	Asclepiadaceae (Milkweed family)	White	Ovate	Summer	Bees, wasps, butterflies Larval host plant: Monarch and queen
Lanceleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)	Asteraceae (Aster family)	Yellow	Disk	Late spring to summer	Bees, wasps, butterflies
Lewis flax (*Linum lewisii*)	Linaceae (Flax family)	Blue	Cup	Spring to fall	Bees, syrphid flies, butterflies Larval host plant: Variegated fritillary
Plains zinnia (*Zinnia grandiflora*)	Asteraceae (Aster family)	Yellow	Disk	Summer to fall	Bees, syrphid flies, butterflies
Upright prairie coneflower (*Ratibida columnifera*)	Asteraceae (Aster family)	Yellow to red	Disk	Spring to fall	Bees, wasps, butterflies

Lanceleaf coreopsis

Horsetail milkweed

Engelmann's daisy