

CORNFLOWER FARMS

HUMMINGBIRD, BUTTERFLY, AND BENEFICIAL INSECT PLANT GUIDE

Welcome to Cornflower Farm's Hummingbird, Butterfly and Beneficial Insect Garden.

Cornflower Farms is a wholesale nursery that grows over 600 native and ornamental plants that are well suited for California landscapes, wildland restoration and agricultural applications.



HUMMINGBIRD & BUTTERFLY PLANTS

Landscapes which attract hummingbirds and butterflies give us a rare opportunity to watch some of the most beautiful and exciting animals on earth. Hummingbirds, which are unique to the Americas, are generally attracted to red tubular flowers in their search for nectar. They can also be attracted to other plants to feed on insects to satisfy their fat and protein dietary needs. Hummingbirds are territorial and often inhabit the same garden year after year.

Butterfly plants will attract beautiful adults, and provide the setting for you to witness the life-cycle stages of these amazing creatures. Though eggs are sometimes hard to spot, the caterpillars which emerge can be exotic and almost science-fictional. A butterfly chrysalis can rival the best jewelry made, while the emergence of the adult is nothing short of breathtaking.

Listed below are what we consider to be the best plants grown by Cornflower Farms for attracting hummingbirds and butterflies. This list is based on our own personal observations and those of local experts. Many of these plants are as interesting and unique as the animals they attract, providing beauty, contrast and form to many landscape settings.

BENEFICIAL INSECT PLANTS

The beneficial insect plants we offer provide food, enhanced habitat, and over-wintering sites for natural enemies of many agricultural pests. Once established, these plants demand minimal, if any, care and can deliver years of benefit.

Beneficial insect plants can thrive in noncrop areas such as field margins, hedgerows, easements, roadsides, and wildlands near cropland and refuges within cropland. Beneficial insect plants include trees, shrubs, groundcovers and grasses. Insectary plantings can also be designed to attract other desirable wildlife, help suppress weeds, increase biodiversity, improve esthetics while enhancing biological control of insects and other pests.

Beneficial insect habitat provide beneficial insects with a year-round, supplemental source of food (pollen, nectar, and sometimes prey), even when pest populations are low. Various combinations of plants attract beneficials by providing flowers throughout the year (see the accompanying chart). The plants we've listed include both California natives and non-natives. While many species are drought tolerant, supplemental watering can greatly enhance and extend flowering periods.

FLOWERING PERIODS OF SELECTED BENEFICIAL INSECT PLANTS

SOME PEST AND BENEFICIAL INSECT ASSOCIATIONS

HUMMINGBIRD, BUTTERFLY, AND BENEFICIAL INSECT PLANTS

			
Acer macrophyllum/big-leaf maple	■	□	□
Achillea species/ yarrow	■	■	□
Adenostoma fasciculatum/chamise	■	□	□
Aesculus californica/California buckeye	■	□	□
Alnus rhombifolia/white alder	■	□	□
Anaphalis margaritacea/pearly everlasting	■	□	□
Aquilegia formosa/western columbine	■	□	■
Arbutus species/Madrone	■	□	■
Arctosaphylos species/manzanita	■	□	■
Aristolochia californica/Dutchman's pipe	■	□	□
Asclepias species/milkweed	■	□	□
Aster chilensis/common aster	■	□	□
Atriplex lentiformis/quail bush	■	□	□
Baccharis species/coyote brush	□	■	□
Buddleja species/butterfly bush	■	□	■
Calocedrus decurrens/incense cedar	■	□	□
Carpenteria californica/bush anemone	□	■	□
Ceanothus species/wild lilac	■	□	□
Cercocarpus species/mountain mahogany	■	□	□
Chilopsis linearis/desert willow	□	■	□
Clematis ligusticifolia/western clematis	□	■	■
Cornus nuttallii/western dogwood	■	□	□
Encelia californica/coast sunflower	■	■	□
Eriogonum species/buckwheat	■	□	□
Eriophyllum species/woolly daisy	■	□	□
Eschscholzia californica/California poppy	■	□	□
Gaultheria shallon/salal	■	□	□
Heteromeles arbutifolia/toyon	■	□	□
Isomeris arborea/bladder pod	■	□	■
Lavandula multifida/lace leaf lavender	□	■	□
Liatris punctata/spotted gayfeather	□	■	□
Lithocarpus densiflorus/tan oak	■	□	□
Lobelia laxiflora/Mexican lobelia	□	■	□
Lonicera species/honeysuckle	□	■	□
Lupinus species/lupine	■	□	□
Mahonia species/Oregon grape	■	□	□
Mimulus species/ monkey flower	■	□	□
Myoporum parvifolium/creeping boobialla	□	■	□
Native grasses	■	■	□
Penstemon species/beard tongue	■	□	□
Philadelphus lewisii /mockorange	■	□	□
Pinus species/pine	■	□	□
Platanus racemosa/California sycamore	■	□	□
Polygonum aubertii/silver lace vine	■	□	□
Populus fremontii/Fremont cottonwood	■	■	□
Potentilla glandulosa/sitcky cinquefoil	■	□	□
Prunus species/ chokecherry	■	□	□
Quercus species/oak	■	□	□
Quillaja saponaria/soapbark tree	□	■	□
Rhamnus californica/coffeeberry	■	■	□
Rhamnus crocea ssp. ilicifolia/redberry	■	□	□
Rhus trilobata/skunk-bush	■	□	□
Ribes species/flowering currant	■	□	■
Rosa californica/California wild rose	■	□	□
Salix species/willow	■	■	□
Salvia species/flowering sage	□	■	□
Sambucus mexicana/Mexican elderberry	■	□	□
Scabiosa species/pincushion flower	■	□	□
Scrophularia a. 'Variegata'/water fig wort	□	■	□
Sisyrinchium bellum/blue-eyed grass	■	□	□
Stachys albotomentosa 'Hidalgo'/lamb's ear	■	□	■
Symporicarpos sp/ snowberry	■	□	□
Trichostema lanatum/woolly bluecurls	■	□	■
Zauschneria californica/California fuchsia	□	■	□

Beneficial Insect	Major Pests	Beneficial Insect Plants
Hoverflies	Aphids Mealybugs	<i>Achillea</i> sp. <i>Ceanothus</i> sp. <i>Asclepias fascicularis</i> <i>Eriogonum</i> sp. <i>Baccharis</i> sp. <i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>
Lady Beetles	Aphids Leafhoppers Scales Mites Mealybugs	<i>Achillea</i> sp. <i>Ceanothus</i> sp. <i>Asclepias fascicularis</i> <i>Atriplex</i> sp. <i>Rhamnus californica</i> native grasses <i>Salix</i> sp.
Minute Pirate Bug	Corn Earworm Whitefly Leafhoppers Mites	<i>Achillea</i> sp. <i>Baccharis</i> sp. <i>Eriogonum</i> sp.
Lacewings	Leafhoppers Mites Aphids Thrips Mealybugs Whitefly	<i>Brachychiton populneus</i> <i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> <i>Quillaja saponaria</i> <i>Ceanothus</i> sp.
Parasitic & Predatory Wasps	Caterpillars Aphids Mealybugs Leafhoppers	<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i> <i>Eriogonum</i> sp. <i>Achillea</i> sp. <i>Myoporum</i> sp. <i>Polygonum aubertii</i>
Tachinid Flies	Caterpillars Squash Bugs Stink Bugs	<i>Achillea</i> sp. <i>Eriogonum</i> sp. <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> <i>Myoporum</i> sp. <i>Rhamnus californica</i>
Bigeyed Bug	Mites Lygus Whitefly Caterpillars	Native Grasses

PLANT SYMBOLS



BENEFICIAL INSECT PLANT



HUMMINGBIRD PLANT



BUTTERFLY PLANT