



California Native Plant Society Santa Clara Valley Chapter Seed Planting Guide

cnps-scv.org/seed-planting



Here are some tips on how to plant the seeds you received from us, along with some of the benefits you can expect from the resulting wildflowers.

Why

Did you know that many pollinators rely on specific native plants to survive? Butterflies and moths like the Variable Checkerspot and Yarrow Plume Moth, seek out these plants to lay their eggs. When these plants are unavailable, the insects vanish. Birds depend on caterpillars as a food source for their young, which has led to a decline in their population as well.



Wildflowers also attract a variety of the 1,600 bee species that are native to California in addition to European honey bees. By choosing to plant native plants in your garden, you can not only beautify your space but also support bees, butterflies, and birds!

Quick Start



Plant seeds fall through winter, ideally during rainy season. Sprinkle on cleared ground and press gently.



When seedlings emerge, keep area weeded to ensure their success



Water seedlings every few days, then water 1-2 times per month when established



Avoid pesticides and herbicides as these chemicals are harmful to insects, animals, plants and humans.



Where

These wildflowers thrive in areas that receive ample sunlight but can also tolerate some shade. Consider planting them near your vegetable garden; the blossoms will draw in European honey bees, as well as a portion of the 1,600 bee species native to California. These bees play a crucial role in pollinating your fruits, vegetables, and other plants.

When to Plant

Early- to mid-fall (just before or slightly after rains begin) is the ideal time to sow. Seed may still be sown December through mid-March, but earlier sowing gives the plants the best start.

Preparing to Plant

Remove existing weeds and grass. Avoid disturbing the soil more than a few inches down as deeper digging may cause dormant weed seeds to germinate. If you have time, water the bed and wait a couple weeks to allow weeds to sprout and then remove them.

Sowing Seed

Scatter seed evenly. Lightly rake the soil or sprinkle sand over the seeds will to keep them from washing away and to reduce the chance that they will be eaten. It's fine to sow the seeds over mulch if the mulch is only a single layer deep. Seeds need light, so thick mulch will reduce or prevent germination. Bird netting can be attached to stakes over the top of the area for additional protection. Water gently but thoroughly immediately after sowing.

Care

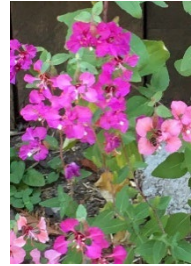
Keep the soil and seeds moist but not waterlogged until a few inches of growth are visible. Then water as needed to keep the plants growing –



during a rainy year, you may only need to water once a month or less. Most of the annuals will finish blooming in late spring or early summer. Annuals may come back each year, starting from seed that was dropped from the parent plant during the summer. The perennials will continue to grow and bloom at different times over the summer and fall.

What Next?

When your flowers start to bloom, the [Seek](#) app can help you to identify the ones included in your packet. Check [calscape.org](#) to see which butterflies and moths depend on each of these plants and then look for them on your plants. Enjoy these flowers and consider expanding the native habitat in your garden with the addition of native shrubs and trees that bloom year-round.



About our Seed Packets



We offer seed packets featuring single species as well as our **Wildflowers for Pollinators** mix packed with a diverse array of California native annuals and perennials. These plants bloom over an extended period, offering a delightful feast for pollinators and a visual treat for your eyes. Each packet covers about three square feet or fills several large pots.

The Wildflowers for Pollinators mix varies based on the availability of seeds. Your packet includes some of the following wildflowers.

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Farewell-to-Spring (*Clarkia amoena*), Elegant Clarkia (*Clarkia unguiculata*), Chinese Houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*), Red Bush Monkeyflower (*Diplacus puniceus*), California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), Globe Gilia (*Gilia capitata*), Bird's Eye Gilia (*Gilia tricolor*), Gumplant (*Grindelia camporum*), Goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata*), Tidy Tips (*Layia platyglossa*), Blue Flax (*Linum lewisii*), Miniature Lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*), Chick Lupine (*Lupinus microcarpus* var. *densiflorus*), Arroyo Lupine (*Lupinus succulentus*), Five-Spot (*Nemophila maculata*), Baby Blue Eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*), California Evening Primrose (*Oenothera hookerii*), California Phacelia (*Phacelia californica*), Desert Bluebells (*Phacelia campanularia*), Tansy phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*), Blue-Eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*)

Gardening Resources

Learn about plants and butterflies and get design ideas: Calscape.org

For inspiration: Growing Natives Garden Tour gngt.org

Want more seeds? Places to purchase seeds locally and online:

<https://cnps-scv.org/seed-sources>

Bay Area Nurseries that carry natives:

<https://cnps-scv.org/Plants-Seeds>

Learn more! Start with these videos:

Nature's Best Hope:

<https://cnps-scv.org/Tallamy2020>



cnps-scv.org/gardening-resources

Seasons and Watering:

<https://cnps-scv.org/HelenPopper>

Gardening for Butterflies and Caterpillars:

<https://cnps-scv.org/butterflies-caterpillars>



Explore more videos at: <https://cnps-scv.org/YouTube>

Visit a public native plant garden: <https://cnps-scv.org/public-gardens>

Join the Gardening with Natives email group to connect with other native plant gardeners:

<https://cnps-scv.org/gardening/gardening-with-natives>

More Gardening Resources:

<https://cnps-scv.org/gardening-resources>

Join the California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter:

<https://cnps.org/join>



Santa Clara Valley Chapter
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY