

BIRD & BUTTERFLY GARDEN



This very special garden is designed to highlight plants known to attract and feed pollinators. Although you will find examples of many of these plants throughout The Garden, they are concentrated in this location to demonstrate the variety of plants and pollinators that work together to keep the ecosystem healthy. There are about a dozen varieties of plants in the inner layer of the garden and many others in the outlying area that enhance the pollinators' buffet. Because it's best to take some time to be still and allow pollinators to adjust to you being there, we have benches here for your convenience and comfort. There is enough room for several observers, so sit back and relax. Depending on the time of year, you are likely to see hummingbirds, song birds, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, and of course, bees. Most of these plants are nectar-rich, so they attract a variety of species that feed on nectar. But don't forget the helper pollinators that carry pollen on their feet, faces and bodies from plant to plant without even trying. There are about 1,500 species that play a roll in pollinating—every species does their part for nature! From this spot, you can watch the magic unfold right before your eyes.

Pollinator Party!



Fun Activity: With a family or small group of friends, decide to stay for a while and count how many different species of pollinators you can see. Or, pick one species for everyone to look for, then the first person to spot it wins! In reality, everyone wins at the Bird & Butterfly Garden because there is so much to see during a pollinator party, and this is where The Garden throws one every single day, no matter what season you visit. Come back during different seasons and times of day to see the difference in plants and pollinators. Read on for details about highlighted plants.

BIRD & BUTTERFLY GARDEN (continued)



Allen Chickering Sage: This is a fast-growing, mounding scrub that matures at about 3-4' tall and 5-6' wide. It is native to California and is a nursery hybrid Salvia, meaning it has not been observed growing in a natural setting. The hybrid is a cultivar of *Salvia cleveland* x *Salvia leucophylla*. It tolerates a variety of soils types and the cold, has low water needs, and prefers full sun. It blooms in spring and summer, and its lavender color flowers are quite fragrant and attract bees, hummingbirds and many butterfly species.



Lantana 'Bandito Orange Sunrise': A mounding shrub, with bright, yellow-orange blooms. Grows 1-2' tall and wide, with dense and rapid growth, and can take over if you don't watch it. Prefers full sun, 6+ hours daily, loves heat and tolerates most soil and drainage types. A favorite with home gardeners since it requires little care, except to control spread. Also drought tolerant, and adapts to humidity and urban conditions. Attracts bees, butterflies, moths, song birds, and hummingbirds. NOTE: Most parts of this plant are toxic to human adults & children, cats, dogs and horses, and can irritate skin when handling.



Hummingbird Sage: This is a small, low to the ground (about 12-18"), mounding herbaceous shrub with upright flowering stems 12-24" long. It is native to the foothills from Orange County to the bay area. It blooms in early spring with long, spikes of red to deep magenta flowers. It prefers shaded or partly shaded areas, and morning sun is best. It has moderate water needs in spring, low supplemental water needs in summer, and is drought tolerant. The best soil for this plant is well-draining soil with clay soil beneath. Perfect for borders or as an accent, and makes a terrific tea. Attracts hummingbirds, bees and butterflies.

BIRD & BUTTERFLY GARDEN (continued)



Pimelea Rosea “Pink Rice Flower”: This densely growing shrub reaches about 4’ tall and wide, and is native to sand dunes and rocky soils of Western Australia. Leaves grow in two pairs of opposite rows. Flowers form in “pom-poms” at the end of the branches which grow in an upright pattern. Blooming season is early spring through summer and becomes a show piece with its bright pink “rice flowers” displayed on the tips of the branches. Grows in full sun or part shade and not picky about soil types, drought tolerant and thrives in dry heat. Attracts bees, butterflies and several bird species.



Mexican Cardinal Flower: This plant tends to sprawl and grows quickly. It grows to about 2-3’ tall by 4-6’ wide. Can be kept to smaller size by trimming after flowering season. Trim to near to the ground to promote growth. Will grow back quickly in spring. Blooms late spring through summer with tube-shaped flowers in red-orange with yellow tips. Native to southern Arizona, Mexico and Central America. It does best in sun to part shade, with well-drained soil, and deep watering in summer. Heat and drought tolerant, can take all day sun. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.



Hartweg’s Sundrops (Western Primrose): This shrub is native to southern Great Plains states and west to Arizona. Grows to 12-18” tall and 2’ wide, in an upright pattern. Prefers part shade, does well in many soil types and requires low water. It enjoys reflected heat so it’s perfect for rock gardens. Bright yellow flowers look like thin crepe and blooming season is early spring to late fall. Flowers open at dusk daily and remain through the next afternoon, staying yellow only one day. It’s pollinated by sphinx moths, a night-time insect drawn to its blooms overnight. Nectar attracts bees, birds and butterflies, too!

BIRD & BUTTERFLY GARDEN (continued)



Santa Barbara Daisy: This spreading, trailing shrub is native to Mexico grows to about 1-2' tall by 3-5' wide. Cascades over rocks, containers, and walls. Grows best in a cool spot, in full sun to light shade. Inland summer heat can shut it down, but it revives quickly when weather cools. Drought tolerant and cold hardy with moderate water need. Can become invasive if watered too often. Cut down to ground in winter for new spring growth. Blooming season can last from spring through fall, and flowers are small, white (and occasionally pink) daisies. Flowers attract bees, small beneficial flies and wasps.



Green-Leaved Euryops: This popular flowering evergreen shrub is native to South Africa and grows to about 4-6' tall and wide. It boasts an extended flowering season, heaviest in spring, but it can bloom nearly year-round. Blooms are bright yellow and daisy-like in appearance. In fact, it is in the daisy family. Prefers full to part sun. It's quick growth makes it perfect for filling open spaces fast. It is easy to care for and has low water needs once established. This shrub is deer-proof and the flowers are especially attractive to bees. Also attracts butterflies, other insects, and birds.



Leucadendron "Wilson's Wonder": A dense and vigorous shrub native to South Africa that grows to about 6-7' tall and 8' wide. The ends of the branches (or bracts) turn bright yellow as flowering begins, then age to orange in winter and spring. Prefers full sun and is drought and frost tolerant. Although this plant looks leafy and green vs. flowering, it plays an important part in pollination. The plant itself is pollinated by wind and species that visit it. So, its survival plan is to attract birds and bees to your garden. Once they visit this plant they carry pollen dust on their beaks and feet to other leucadendron.

BIRD & BUTTERFLY GARDEN (continued)



Chinese Pistache Trees: Although not part of the pollinator menu, this is a sight to take in while enjoying some quiet time in the midst of pollination. We don't get to see a lot of seasonal change in San Diego County, but much of The garden will look completely different depending on the time of year you visit. And the Bird and Butterfly Garden is a perfect example. Obviously the spring brings blossoms to all the nectar-rich plants. But because the Chinese Pistache is deciduous, meaning it sheds its leaves annually, you can enjoy spectacular seasonal transitions right from this single spot.

In the winter these trees will be bare, allowing maximum sunlight to warm your stay. During the spring they begin to fill out with leaves and in summer are fully lush with deep green leaves to shade your restful spot below. By late summer you will find clusters of small red berries throughout their canopies. These clusters look almost like holly berries. Then, wait for the treat in early fall (shown here) as the leaves change to a variable kaleidoscope of warm colors, from green to deep red, and everything in between. In late fall the leaves all become yellow to brown and begin to fall. If you time it right, you can sit on the benches and enjoy the leaves drifting down on you like a gentle rain. We recommend visiting this location throughout the year to experience the cycle of transformations.

Sit, Relax, and Watch it Unfold Before Your Eyes!

The Bird & Butterfly Garden is the perfect spot to rest, to witness pollination in action, or watch over the heart of The Garden. From the benches here, you overlook the central path through The Garden and can see the Topiary Garden, Children's Trails, White Garden, Turf Exhibit, Owl Box, Sensory Garden, and more. It's definitely worth setting aside the time to do very little, but see quite a bit!

