

# Unleash The Wild : Bring Nature Home

2023-2025 Theme

In North America and Hawaii, there are about 4000 species of native bees. It is estimated that more than 50% of the 1437 North American/Hawaii bee species studied are declining and bees are one of the major pollinators. Other pollinators include butterflies, moths, bats, birds, beetles, and other insects. We can all create habitat to encourage pollinators, and other wildlife where we live. We must learn to live in the midst of nature for the future good of the earth. Small spaces can support these creatures and do so rather quickly. New flower strips in Munich attracted 1/3 of their bee species within one year. You can even use containers to help increase native habitat. Consider adding plants, nesting materials & habitat, water sources etc. to your garden that will add biodiversity and bring nature home. Even starting small will make a difference.



Resources for Native Plant Information: Because the Pacific Region is so diverse, some of these may not have appropriate information for your area. Most of these websites have a wealth of other information.

Xerces - Regional plant lists for pollinator plants, monarch plants, nesting plants, (many You Tube videos) [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org)

You Tube Videos – search by topic

USDA Plants <https://plants.usda.gov/home>

Bureau of Land Management for your state [www.blm.gov/programs/natural-resources/native-plant-communities/about-native-plants](http://www.blm.gov/programs/natural-resources/native-plant-communities/about-native-plants)

Local or regional facebook groups for native plants or sustainable landscapes

Audubon Plants for Birds – native plant database (search by zip code) [www.audubon.org/native-plants](http://www.audubon.org/native-plants)

National Wildlife Federation – native plant finder (search by zip code) [www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/](http://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/)

Washington Native Plant Society: [www.wnps.org/native-plant-directory](http://www.wnps.org/native-plant-directory)

Arizona Native Plant Society: [www.aznps.com/the-plant-list](http://www.aznps.com/the-plant-list)

California Native Plant Society: [www.calscape.org](http://www.calscape.org)

Oregon: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/pub/ec-1577>

Nevada Native Plant Society: [www.nvnps.org](http://www.nvnps.org)

Idaho Native Plant Society: [www.idahonativeplants.org/native-plant-resources/](http://www.idahonativeplants.org/native-plant-resources/)

Alaska Native Plant Society: [www.aknps.org/additional-resources/](http://www.aknps.org/additional-resources/)

Hawaii: <http://nativeplants.hawaii.edu/plant/>



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2023-2025 Pacific Region Garden Clubs Project

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Small gardening practices can make a difference. The gentle bumble bee queens need to find a place in the soil under leaf litter to overwinter - so add organic materials to the top of your soil as mulch. Insects that prey on garden pests also need to find safe places. Fresh water for insects, birds, bats, frogs, and other critters is a requirement for survival. Of course, places for birds to nest in trees and shrubs or nest boxes of the correct design are helpful to bring these future parents into the yard (to eat the thousands of insects that should be available) where pesticides are not used.

Certain early blooming plants have nectar and or pollen available to feed the emerging bees and other insects. A series of different plants are needed to supply nectar, pollen, leaves, seeds, berries, or structure to support the circle of life. Each critter is dependent on others - and others dependent on it. In our yards, they are all dependent on our choices.

It has been shown that plants native to an area support the native critters. With climate warming some natives are blooming too early or arriving too late to synchronize their needs - especially for pollination and food. There are many sources of information to help you find out what will probably work in your yard. (Some resources listed on the other side of this page.)

## The Basics:

1. Goal objectives: Educate ourselves, others, and do something to help the natural world.
2. Keep a tally of what we have been doing and what we have incorporated into our gardening.
  - a. If you have already incorporated techniques to help wildlife in your gardening, Great! Take a point for each thing you have done and send a list to Debbie.\*1 You are a resource for others to learn about what works – and what didn't in your situation.
  - b. If you are incorporating new measures to entice nature into your yard, Great! Take a point for each thing you have done and send a list to Debbie.\*1
  - c. Write a brief (inspirational) bit for the newsletter equals another point! **(Mail to Debbie for consolidating.)**
  - d. Send photos with a brief description for newsletter or website wins more points. (Send to Debbie)
  - e. Club, district, and state projects get points for the number of participants. Send Debbie a brief description of the project and the number of both club members and non-club members that participated.
3. How to win a MONETARY Award:
  - a. BRING NATURE HOME Award to the Pacific Region garden club with the most points. Be sure to include your club name and state when submitting points.
  - b. HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK Award - Peruse the information on the website (\*2) and if you qualify, add your yard to the website map. This award is for an increase over the number of participants already on the map on April 19, 2023. This award will be based on the per capita increase per state.

\*1 [DHgardens@outlook.com](mailto:DHgardens@outlook.com) – Send your list with your name, garden club, town, state to collect points or ask questions.

\*2 <https://homegrownnationalpark.org>