

WILDLIFE GARDEN TIPS



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FROM AN ARTICLE IN THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTER'S NEWSLETTER

Choose species that flower and fruit at different times; with carefully chosen plantings pollen, nectar, seeds and fruits of one sort or another will always be available.

Be sure to include a goodly number of deciduous plants; their yearly abundance of tender new growth and decaying plant parts provide sustenance for many creatures. Many fast growers and abundant fruit-bearers fit into this class.

Think insects. Many interesting backyard wildlife species rely heavily or exclusively on insects

for food. In fact, insects and other invertebrates themselves can be among the chief delights in the garden. Their beauty and diversity is a never-ending source of wonder and amusement; one Eastern entomologist recorded over 1400 species of insects in his suburban yard! Try using a magnifier.

For deeper satisfaction and fewer problems, keep artificial feeding of wildlife to a minimum. Instead concentrate on working to improve the "carrying capacity" of your domain.

Water features are invaluable in wildlife gardens. Be a "pioneer" in working with aquatic habitat-gardening. Many fascinating semi-aquatic and aquatic native plants and animals are becoming locally extinct; little is known about them or their culture.

Taking notes and making species lists may add to your pleasure and facilitate the sharing of your observations.



CNPS Gardening Committee

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