



TreePeople



Get to know your local pollinators!



Five native SoCal pollinators
we see at our restoration sites
(and why we love them!)



If you were asked to imagine a bee, you'd probably picture a European honey bee. You know the ones—they're stripey, they sting, they live in hives, and, of course, they make honey.

While it isn't native to North America, the European honey bee is ubiquitous here, because it's long been bred for agricultural pollination. But did you know that there are at least

1,600 native bee species

in California alone? And that's not to mention our hundreds of other native pollinators like **butterflies, beetles, flies, birds, and even bats.**



Many of these native pollinators co-evolved with native plants, and have developed **special features that make them better at the fertilization process.** Some plants even require specific pollinators to visit them in order to reproduce. These species are critical to preserving and increasing biodiversity—**which is why we'll be celebrating them at our largest Earth Month event of the year!**

On April 25th, join us for **Pollinator Palooza at Castaic Lake.** We'll be hosting an education and resource fair, planting and giving away narrowleaf milkweed to expand habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators, and doing a pollinator fashion show! Sign up today to reserve your spot—**and keep an eye out for these five native pollinators while you're there!** →



Valley carpenter bees

These fuzzy buzzers are the largest native bees in California, growing up to an inch in length. The females are jet black, while the males are bright yellow with green eyes. While they might look intimidating, they live quite a peaceful life, burrowing into the limbs of oak trees to make their homes and munching on “bee bread”—a mixture of pollen, nectar and bee saliva. And when it comes to pollination, their size makes them very effective, allowing them to collect and transfer far more pollen.





Painted lady butterflies

Some of these beauties live in Southern California year-round, but in spring you might notice them fluttering around more frequently, as a migratory population makes its way from western Mexico to the Pacific Northwest to breed. While they remain the most common butterfly in North America, hotter, drier weather has led to habitat loss, so it's critical to keep planting native plants like yellow-flowered rubber rabbitbrush, black sage, and wild heliotrope that they love to feed on.

Ultra-green sweat bee

One of the most visually striking native pollinators, the ultra-green sweat bee can be recognized by its vibrant, green metallic exterior. But these busy bees are beloved for more than just their looks—when it comes to pollination, they are generalists, which makes them very beneficial for both wilderness ecosystems and agricultural crops. Like most native bees, they are ground dwellers, so you can support their ability to nest by leaving patches of sunny, undisturbed soil in your yard!





Anna's hummingbird

This time of year, you might spot a tiny, green and metallic pink bird whizzing through the sky while chirping out a raspy song. Odds are, you just witnessed the mating dance of Anna's hummingbird, one of SoCal's most prolific avian pollinators! These tiny birds love to visit tubular flowers, which their long beak is specially evolved to access, and are attracted to warm colors like red and orange. So if you want to see their famous dance in action, try adding plants like California fuchsia or sticky monkey flower to your garden.

Monarch butterflies

Perhaps the most beloved of all native butterflies, monarchs are known for their epic migration patterns, in which they travel thousands of miles to lay their eggs. Unfortunately, these essential pollinators face a myriad of threats, from climate change to pesticides to habitat loss. One of the easiest ways to help them? Planting the native milkweed that serves as their host plant. Right now, TreePeople is working on planting more than 5,000 native milkweed plants across the Angeles National Forest, in an effort to increase western monarch habitat. And we need your help!



This April 25th, join us at

Pollinator Palooza



for a day filled with milkweed planting, cool pollinator facts, giveaways, and more. There will be free educational activities, prizes, and fun for the whole family—including a pollinator fashion show. It's the perfect way to celebrate Earth Month and the beautiful and diverse pollinators that keep our ecosystems resilient and healthy.

**Head to the link in bio
to register today!**



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