Perennials

Best Plants for Sheer Number of Insect Visitors

1. Clustered Mountain Mint - *Pycnanthemum muticum*, 51 insects
2. Rattlesnake Master - *Eryngium yuccifolium*, 51 insects
3. Wild Bergamot - *Monarda fistulosa*, 31 insects
4. Whorled Tickseed - *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Zagreb', 26 insects
5. Blazing Star - *Liatris spicata*, 23 insects
6. Smooth Aster - *Aster laevis* 'Bluebird', 23 insects

Best Plants for Pollinator Visitor Diversity

1. Clustered Mountain Mint - *Pycnanthemum muticum*
2. Stiff Goldenrod - *Solidago rigida*
3. Blazing Star - *Liatris spicata*
4. Common Milkweed - *Asclepias syriaca*
5. Lance-leaved Coreopsis - *Coreopsis lanceolata*
6. Thoroughwort - *Eupatorium hyssopifolium*
7. Coastal Plain Joe Pye Weed - *Eupatorium dubium*
8. Sundrops - *Oenothera fruticosa* 'Fireworks

Plants to consider:

1. Penstemon
2. Aster Family
    - Asters
    - Liatris
    - Coneflower
    - Zinnia (annual)
    - Coreopsis
    - Black-eyed Susan
3. Mint Family
    - Beebalm
    - Mountain Mint
    - Agastache
4. Shrubs
    - Virginia Sweetspire
    - Summersweet
5. Asclepias spp.

Annuals

1. Lantana/*Lantana camara*
2. Pentas/*Pentas* spp.
3. Salvia/ Sage
    - Anise-scented sage/*Salvia guaranitica*
    - Clary sage/*Salvia sclarea* (biennial)
    - Blue salvia (mealycup sage)/*Salvia farinacea*
    - Pineapple sage/*Salvia elegans*
4. Vervain/*Verbena bonariensis*
5. Ageratum/*Ageratum houstonianum*
6. Spider flower/*Cleome* spp. (dwarf cultivar - Pequeña Rosalita)
7. Globe Amaranth/ *Gomphrena* spp.
8. Cuphea/ *Cuphea* spp.
    - Vermillionaire
    - Bat Face
9. Canna/ *Canna* spp.
10. Wishbone Flower/ *Torenia* spp. (for shade)

Other great annuals for bees:

Aster/*Callistephus chinensis*
Black-eyed susan /*Rudbeckia hirta*
Borage or starflower/*Borago officinalis*
Calendula/*Calendula officinalis*
Common sunflower/*Helianthus annuus*
Cornflower/*Centaurea cyanus*
Cosmos/*Cosmos bipinnatus*
Dahlia (open types)/*Dahlia* cv.
Garden heliotrope/*Heliotrope arborescens*
Popcorn plant/*Cassia didymobotrya*
Tithonia/Tithonia rotundifolia
Zinnia/*Zinnia elegans*

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www.pollinator.org

The flower type, shape, color, odor, nectar, and structure vary by the type of pollinator that visits them. Such characteristics are considered pollination syndromes and can be used to predict the type of pollinator that will aid the flower in successful reproduction.

Use the pollinator syndrome table to help you identify the potential pollinators you may associate with different flower types.

Pollinator Syndrome Traits Table

Trait	Bats	Bees	Beetles	Birds	Butterflies	Flies	Moths	Wind
Color	Dull white, green or purple	Bright white, yellow, blue, or UV	Dull white or green	Scarlet, orange, red or white	Bright, including red and purple	Pale and dull to dark brown or purple; flecked with translucent patches	Pale and dull red, purple, pink or white	Dull green, brown, or colorless; petals absent or reduced
Nectar Guides	Absent	Present	Absent	Absent	Present	Absent	Absent	Absent
Odor	Strong musty; emitted at night	Fresh, mild, pleasant	None to strongly fruity or fetid	None	Faint but fresh	Putrid	Strong sweet; emitted at night	None
Nectar	Abundant; somewhat hidden	Usually present	Sometimes present; not hidden	Ample; deeply hidden	Ample; deeply hidden	Usually absent	Ample; deeply hidden	None
Pollen	Ample	Limited; often sticky and scented	Ample	Modest	Limited	Modest in amount	Limited	Abundant; small, smooth, and not sticky
Flower Shape	Regular; bowl shaped – closed during day	Shallow; have landing platform; tubular, c	Large bowl-like, Magnolia	Large funnel like; cups, strong perch support	Narrow tube with spur; wide landing pad	Shallow; funnel like or complex and trap-like	Regular; tubular without a lip	Regular: small and stigmas exerted