



Mojave Desert Native Plants for Native Bees (& other insect pollinators)

The Mojave Desert is home to an estimated 750 native bee species. While many bees will pollinate a variety of flowering plants, some species have preferences for the types of flowers they pollinate. For example, the mallow bees *Diadasia ochracea* and *D. diminuta*, specialize on flowers of apricot mallow, while other *Diadasia* species only pollinate cactus flowers. Native bee diversity is important for maintaining native plant diversity and healthy ecosystems. Following is a list of plants that support a variety of native bee species.

Asclepias erosa—Desert milkweed—tarantula hawk wasps, sweat bees, oil-collecting bees

Bahiopsis parishii—Parish's goldeneye—leafcutter bees

Baileya multiradiata—Desert marigold—sweat bees

Bebbia juncea—Sweetbush—digger bees, oil-collecting bees, bumblebees, bee flies

Cercocarpus betuloides—Mountain mahogany—mining bees

Chaenactis species—Pincushion—sweat bees, bee flies, flower beetles

Chilopsis linearis—Desert willow—sweat bees

Cylindropuntia species—Cholla species—Diadasia bees (cactus bees), flower beetles

Cucurbita palmata—Coyote melon—squash bees

Encelia actoni—Acton encelia—mining bees, leafcutter bees, flower beetles

E. farinosa—Brittlebush—mining bees, sweat bees, digger bees

Ericameria species—Goldenbush, Rabbitbrush —cuckoo bees, digger bees, mason bees

Eriogonum species—Buckwheat species—sweat bees, cellophane bees, leafcutter bees, mason bees

Eschscholzia species—Poppy species—Perdita bees

Isocoma acradenia—Alkali goldenbush—alkali bees, sweat bees

Krameria erecta, *K. bicolor*—Rhatany—oil-collecting bees

Larrea tridentata—Creosote bush—Perdita bees, mason bees, digger bees, oil-collecting bees

Malacothrix glabrata—Desert dandelion—desert dandelion bee, sweat bees, mining bees, oil-collecting bees, owl moths

Opuntia basilaris—Beavertail cactus—Diadasia bees (cactus bees), sweat bees, flower beetles

Parkinsonia florida—Blue palo verde—CA carpenter bee, oil-collecting bees, leafcutter bees

Peritoma arborea—Bladderpod—digger bees, sweat bees, mining bees

Prosopis glandulosa, *P. pubescens*—Honey mesquite, screwbean mesquite—cellophane bees, mason bees, CA carpenter

bee, leafcutter bees

Psoralea species—Indigo bush, smoke tree—digger bees, bee flies

Rafinesquia neomexicana—Desert chicory—Diadasia bees

Salvia species—Sage species—digger bees, oil-collecting bees, CA carpenter bee

Scutellaria mexicana—Paperbag bush—digger bees

Senecio flaccidus—Butterweed—mason bees

Senecio greggii—Catclaw—Diadasia bees, leafcutter bees

Senna armata—Desert senna—bumblebees

Sphaeralcea ambigua—Apricot mallow—Diadasia bees (mallow bees), sweat bees, mining bees

Xylorhiza tortifolia—Mojave aster—Diadasia bees, sweat bees, Perdita bees, bee flies