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Pollinators like bees, birds, and butterflies perform essential services for us through pollinating our food, but their habitat is declining in California. The good news is that these pollinators often require very little habitat space to survive. That's why planting even one flowering shrub in your yard can make an important difference by providing habitat connectivity for these creatures.

By planting native shrubs, the distance a pollinator has to travel from one habitat to the next is reduced. In addition to providing essential habitat for pollinators, shrubs are also able to sequester significant amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. If you don't have space for a tree in your yard, consider a pollinator shrub!



Shrubs for pollinators

Name	Height at Maturity	Width	Shape	Bloom color	Bloom time	Attracts	Care instructions	
Coffeeberry (Rhamnus/Frangula californica)	6-15 ft.	5-15 ft	round, spreading	cream, green, white	spring, summer		prefers full sun or partial shade; irrigate 2x/month once established; responds well to pruning; wildfire resistant; drought tolerant	
Toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia)	6-30 ft	10-15 ft	round	white	summer		prefers full sun or partial shade; irrigate 2x/month once established; slightly fragrant; wildfire resistant; drought tolerant; controls erosion	
Centennial Wild Lilac (Ceanothus 'Centennial')	1 ft	1-5 ft	prostrate	blue	winter		prefers shade, grows well under tree canopy; irrigate 2x/month once established; heat and drought tolerant	
Oregon Grape (Mahonia aquifolium)	3-7 ft	6 ft	spreading, upright	yellow	winter, spring		prefers full sun, partial shade, or full shade; irrigate 1x/month once established; prune in the dry season; pleasantly fragrant; wildfire resistant; drought tolerant	
Emerald Carpet Manzanita (Manzanita 'Emerald Carpet')	1 ft	3-5 ft	prostrate	white	winter, spring, summer, fall		prefers full sun or partial shade; irrigate 2x/month once established; drought tolerant	
Silver Lupine (Lupinus albifrons)	3-5 ft	2-3 ft	spreading	blue, lavender, purple	winter, spring, summer		prefers full sun; irrigate 2x/month once established; drought tolerant	
Buck Brush (Ceanothus cuneatus)	5-12 ft	5-12 ft	round, spreading, upright	white	winter, spring, summer		prefers full sun; irrigate 1x/month once established; drought tolerant; can be used for bank stabilization or hedges	
Common Manzanita (Arctostaphylos manzanita)	6-20 ft	10 ft	round, upright	green, white	winter, spring		prefers full sun or partial shade; irrigate 1x/month once established; drought tolerant; can be used for hedges	
White Pitcher Sage (Lepechinia calycina)	8 ft	6 ft	upright	white	spring		prefers full sun or partial shade; irrigate 3x/month in dry season; can be used for hedges	
California Flannel Bush (Fremontodendron californicum)	6-20 ft	20 ft	round, spreading, upright	yellow, orange	spring, summer		prefers full sun; never irrigate once established; wildfire resistant; drought tolerant; can be used for hedges	
Coyote Bush (Baccharis pilularis)	1-10 ft	12 ft	spreading	yellow, cream, white	winter, spring, summer, fall		prefers full sun or partial shade; irrigate 1x/week once established; drought tolerant; can be used for bank stabilization or hedges	
California Wildrose (Rosa californica)	8-10 ft	10 ft	round, spreading	red, pink, white	spring, summer		prefers full sun, partial shade, or full shade; irrigate 3x/month once established; can be used for hedges	
Cleveland Sage (Salvia clevelandii)	3-5 ft	8 ft	mounding	blue, lavender, purple	spring, summer		prefers full sun or partial shade; never irrigate once established; wildfire resistant; drought tolerant; can be used for bank stabilization	