

Creating a Bee Friendly Garden in Dry Conditions



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An environmentally conscious homeowner might wonder how to go about creating a bee-friendly garden. Also known as a pollinator garden, it contains trees, shrubs, and plants that are nectar- and pollen-producing. There are several standard suggestions for creating a pollinator [garden](#) in *normal* soil conditions:

- Plant a variety of pollen-producing trees, shrubs, and flowers that will bloom at different times throughout the season. A continuously blooming yard is the goal.
- Group plants together to provide maximum appeal.
- Plant in a sunny location as much as possible.
- Limit or avoid the use of pesticides. If you inviting nature into your yard, the pests most likely will be taken care of naturally.
- Seek out native plants. You can check your local garden center for suggestions. Non-native [plants](#) can be more susceptible to diseases and have a shorter life.
- Provide adequate moisture. This can be done through watering and mulching. This mulch can be traditional or more natural, such as newspaper or leaves.

If you live in a drier climate, this could be an additional challenge, requiring adjustment and adaptation. Certain regions of the United States have standard climate [patterns](#). Of course some variation exists year to year. For a homeowner living in a drought-prone area that wishes to welcome bees into their yard, you will need to plan and think a bit more creatively. Water conservation will be most important in your planning, so general tips such as using timing devices for your hoses and collecting rainwater in barrels to recycle on your plants will be important.

[Xeriscaping](#) is a type of landscaping specifically designed for arid regions and requires low water maintenance. The key is utilizing plants that are specifically designed for dry areas and require little moisture. So in addition to the standard pollinator garden and water conservation suggestions, here are some additional tips for creating a pollinator garden in *dry* soil conditions:

- Research your area to know your soil.
- Plant slow-growing, drought tolerant plants. Check out some [possibilities](#).

- If necessary, install an efficient irrigation system using [drip irrigation](#), which is a low-pressure water system that applies water only to the roots of plants.
- Group your plantings according to water needs.
- Plant mulch to protect moisture.
- Commit to planting [non-invasive](#), drought-tolerant plants. While invasive plants can fare better in drought conditions, they can do such things as alter soil conditions and provide fuel for fires.
- Consult a professional if necessary. Make sure that the person you choose is used to designing for the climate particular to your area, which is vital to success.

Keep in mind that while we often think that bare spots in our lawns are not wanted and we attempt to fill every spot, [70%](#) of native bees nest in the ground, so leaving a few bare spots can be beneficial.

In the long run, while it seems like more of a financial investment is required, your efforts will be rewarded. Once your xeriscape is underway, you'll save money with a lower water bill, spend less time on maintenance, and have the satisfaction of knowing you've done your part to support the bee pollinators. Plus, an extra perk in planting a pollinator garden will be attracting other pollen-loving insects (such as butterflies) as well!

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