

## FAVORITE PERENNIAL POLLINATOR PLANTS



Kathleen Stewart: *Verbena bonariensis*. Bees and butterflies love it, finches apparently eat the seeds (according to Annie's Annuals, though I've yet to witness this first hand), it is thoroughly deer tolerant, drought resistant, and frequently pops up unexpectedly in the most surprising places. It also looks so elegant and blends in just about anywhere and is quite a long bloomer. What more could one ask for!



Kathleen Stewart: *Verbena lilacina 'De La Mina'* is also fabulous! I planted some at the Elkus Conference Center two years ago in 4 inch containers and it has been blooming ever since (with no pruning - gotta do that soon though).



Laura Majerus: *Echium pininana*. It's a biennial that grows to over 13 feet and attracts a wide variety of pollinators. It's native to the Canary Islands. Self seeds, although I have not found it to be invasive in my own yard.



Barbara Du Mond: *Nepeta 'Walker's Low'* (Walker's Low Catmint). It blooms from spring to fall and attracts all kinds of pollinators. It is easy care. Cut it to the ground in winter and watch it come back in spring. It slowly spreads and makes a nice ground cover.



Bruce Goren: Favorite pollinator attraction bait plant, that's a tough one. I think I'll go with catnip at the urging of the soft furry vibrating beast curled up in my lap as I type this.



Arete Nicholas: A hummingbird magnet *Salvia microphylla 'Hot Lips'* is a long-blooming Sage that blooms most of the year with eye-catching red and white bicolor flowers. The nectar-rich flowers attract hummingbirds and other pollinators.



Stuart Dalton: Rosemary Prostratus, especially creeping rosemary to drape over edges brickwork. Plus, it's great as an herb.



Stephanie Erskine: My favorite drought tolerant, perennial plant is the Ray Hartman Ceanothus. It is a native, a beautiful evergreen and produces profuse, blue blossoms January through March. All bees love the flowers.

## FAVORITE STONE FRUIT TREES



Kathleen Stewart: Peaches



Norine Cepernich: Satsuma plum is my favorite fruit. The pit is tiny and removes easily. The skin is not too tart and the fruit is a rich deep red. It makes a delicious jam.



Terry Messinger: My favorite stone fruit tree is the Santa Rosa plum. I love it because it provides such wonderful fruit for jam and fruit leather which I make every summer. Happy gardening!



Sandy Padilla: Favorite fruit tree is white nectarine "Arctic Queen."



Stuart Dalton: Blenheim apricots! The tree I planted about the time I became a master Gardener is now producing prolifically. The training received from the Master Gardener Program on how to prune and when gave me bushels of apricots this year. Blenheim apricots have the best flavor even if they aren't the prettiest.

Arete Nicholas: Blenheim apricot tree does extraordinary well in San Francisco's Noe Valley area. It is medium to large, yellow skinned with orange blush, and has superb flavor, what more can I say?



Bruce Goren: Black Republican cherry! That's easy! Bing, too bad it requires so much chill, can't grow it in San Francisco, but Black Republican does well and it is very good.



Bruce Goren: Plums? So many good ones, but if I must pick one it would be Burgundy, a Luther Burbank introduction followed closely by Elephant Heart



## FAVORITE TIPS

- Bennett Kuhn: I own a tool called an Orchard burner (Lee Valley Tools). This is a rather large propane blow torch, the tip is approximately 3" in diameter and at full blast it puts out a flame that is about 100,000 BTU. This is the lazy gardener's weeder. In January on a wet miserable day (easier to control any small fire you might start) you blow-torch your raised garden beds bare. We are talking scorched earth tactics. This does not kill the roots unfortunately, but it is easy and fast and a lot of fun for us pyromaniacs. Since the roots will survive, you wait two weeks and do it again incinerating the fresh sprouts. February 1st is time for a third scorch (if needed) to ready the bed for planting in March.
- Barbara Du Mond: Feed the soil not the plant.
- Kathleen Stewart: Add compost (this is a no-brainer)! Also, sterilize your tools between cuts when pruning (another good one).
- Sandy Padilla: Mulch, mulch, mulch and using compost.

- Norine Cepernich: Homemade compost is my #1 favorite tip. I apply twice a year.
- Stuart Dalton: Mulch for water conservation, weed suppression, and soil health, even deeper than I used to use it. Really great in beds and pots.
- Patty Sigman: You can store carrots underground for the winter if you are lacking space indoors or just want to give it a try. Carrots sweeten as the weather turns colder, but you want to harvest before a freeze. It is recommended to mulch about 6", and you can keep the tops on though they will eventually die back. This way your carrot crop can be extended into the winter months.
- Stephanie Erskine: I hand water my garden, so when the rains are predicted, I spread a thick layer of compost around fruit trees, and flowering plants. I let the rains percolate the compost into the soil. I add some mulch, and I don't need to fertilize as much with this method.
- Bruce Goren: Chill Hours are not a black and white, hard cut-off rule; it is a gray scale! You might get less than commercial quantities trying to grow higher chill hour requirement fruit here in the Bay Area, but you just might get enough for your personal needs.
- Melissa Mason: Gas blowers produce hundreds of times more hazardous pollutants and fine particulates than automobiles. Leave the leaves in place and, if you have to, use a rake. If you really need to blow, cut down the frequency and use an electric blower. In addition to the pollution caused by the 2 and 4 cycle engines, we can add the devastation to our fauna caused by blowing and removing leaves, topsoil, mulch and blowing eggs out of nests, etc. Good info in this link: <https://www.quietcleanpdx.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Gas-Powered-Leaf-Blower-Emissions-Factsheet-11.12.pdf>