



# Pollinator Syndromes

“Pollinator Syndromes” describe flower characteristics, or traits, that may appeal to a particular type of pollinator. Such characteristics can be used to predict the type of pollinator that will aid the flower in successful reproduction. A combination of color, odor, quantity of nectar, location and type of pollen, and flower structure can each affect a potential pollinator’s ability to locate a flower and its food resources.









| Type of Pollinator   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
|----------------------|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| Trait                | Bat   | Bee   | Beetle  | Bird   | Butterfly   | Fly   | Moth  | Wind  |
| <b>Color</b>         | White, green or purple  | Bright white, yellow, blue, or UV   | White or green  | Scarlet, orange, red or white  | Bright red and purple   | Pale, or dark brown, purple   | Pale red, purple, pink or white   | Pale green, brown, or colorless   |
| <b>Nectar guides</b> | None  | Present   | None  | None   | Present   | None  | None  | None  |
| <b>Odor</b>          | Strong and musty; emitted at night  | Fresh, mild, pleasant   | None to strongly fruity or foul   | None   | Faint but fresh   | Putrid  | Strong sweet; emitted at night  | None  |
| <b>Nectar</b>        | Abundant; somewhat hidden   | Usually present   | Sometimes present   | Ample; deeply hidden   | Ample; deeply hidden  | Usually absent  | Ample; deeply hidden  | None  |
| <b>Pollen</b>        | Ample   | Limited; often sticky, scented  | Ample   | Limited  | Limited   | Limited   | Limited   | Abundant; small, smooth   |
| <b>Flower Shape</b>  | Bowl shaped; closed during day  | Shallow; with landing platform; tubular   | Large and bowl-shaped   | Large, funnel-like; strong perch support   | Narrow tube with spur; wide landing pad   | Shallow; funnel-like or complex with trap   | Regular; tubular without a lip  | Regular and small   |
|                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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