



SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO

# Water Conservancy District

*"Your investment in water"*

## Water Wise Demonstration Garden

### *Native Pollinators and Beneficial Insects*

#### **Why encourage insects in your garden?**

Encouraging beneficial insects in your garden helps with balancing pest insect populations which can reduce or eliminate the need for pesticides. Insects are also very important to the food web and will draw in insect predators like birds, lizards, spiders, and toads that will also help to balance insect populations in your garden.

Pollinators such as native bees, butterflies and moths can be drawn into your garden by planting a diversity of native plants that bloom in succession from early spring through late fall.

Many butterfly and moth larvae (caterpillars) require specific host plants for feeding so it is a good idea to incorporate some of these plants.



*Monarch caterpillar feeding on milkweed*

#### **Examples of Host Plants for Caterpillars**

- **Black Swallowtail** – Dill, Parsley, Fennel, Carrot
- **Monarch** – Milkweed
- **Hairstreak** – Gambel Oak
- **Orange Sulfur** – Vetch, Goldenbanner, Lupine, Locoweed
- **Mourning Cloak** – Willow, Aspen, Cottonwood, Elm



*Black Swallowtail feeding on carrot*

#### **Examples of Important Nectar Plants for Pollinators**

- Rabbitbrush
- Evening Primrose
- Bee Balm
- Coneflower
- White Clover
- Gumweed
- Dandelion
- Thistle
- Zinnia



*Insect Hotel, SECWCD Garden*

#### **Wait until early spring for garden cleanup!**

Pollinators overwinter in different life stages: eggs, larvae, pupae, and adults. Some overwinter in hollow stems, while others attach to plants or overwinter in the leaf litter. To protect overwintering pollinators, don't cut down your perennial gardens until spring (early April), and keep beds of leaves intact through the winter.



*More information can be found on our website:*

[www.secwcd.org/  
content/plant-recommendations](http://www.secwcd.org/content/plant-recommendations)

