

**Selecting Native Plants:**

When selecting native plants for patio gardens there are a wealth of options and a few good rules:

1. Hummingbirds pollinate bright, tubular shaped flowers
2. In general, the best plants for containers should not exceed a growth maturity of more than 3'x3'
3. Plants in containers should be fairly drought tolerant and enjoy well draining soils
4. Make sure the plants you are choosing work well on the patio. If the patio is completely shaded at all times, make sure the plants are shade tolerant, if the plants are in part sun, or receive afternoon sun, make sure that they are species that are in a "full sun" category.
5. Pairing plants in a pot is beautiful and adds a dynamic element to the patio container planting.

**Container Rules:**

1. Make sure the pot/container is large enough (at least a three gallon or larger).
2. Check moisture in containers regularly when they are first planted to see how often they will need water. Don't over water, but water once container is dry. Pro tip: mix  $\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$  ratio of sand in with potting soil for the best drainage and water holding potential.

**Recommended Plants:**

1. For full sun: *Salvia* sp., *Agave* sp (*parryi*, *palmeri*), *Penstemon* sp., *Erythrina flabelliformis* (coralbean), *Anisacanthus thurberi* (Desert honeysuckle).
2. For shade: *Mimulus cardinalis* (cardinal monkeyflower), *Heuchera sanguineum* (coralbells), *Delphinium* sp.(Larkspur), *Lobelia cardinalis* (cardinal flower).
3. The list above is very short, so if you'd like to get creative, there are many more options, and using the first five rules, you can go to any nursery and find the right types of plants.

**Cool Pairings:**

1. Pairing succulents with flowering forbs is a fun and dynamic way to for plants to co-habitat and fill in a container
2. The *Agave* species and *Erythrina* listed above will grow to be very large, but finding young pups or seedlings of those species, keeping them in the container for a few years, and then transplanting them into the garden once they've outgrown the pot is a great way to hone and support both hummingbird and bat nectar habitat in your yard.
3. Pairing example: *Agave parryi* pup paired with *Salvia lemmonii*.

## Side Butterfly/Hummingbird Pollinator Garden

### Evaluate the Space

1. How big is the space?
  - a. A dense planting will have a plant every 1-2 square feet
  - b. A spacious planting will have a plant every 2-4 square feet
2. What is the soil type?
  - a. Soil type is a combination of sand, silt, and clay. Higher sand ratios improve drainage, but will often need to be watered more frequently.
  - b. Native plants need much less organic matter in the soil to thrive, so little to no compost is needed.
3. Does the space have irrigation, or a nearby hose?
  - a. Making sure any planted native plants have access to irrigation for the first year or two is important for survivability
  - b. If there's little to no irrigation, consider a seed mix of native forbs that can establish naturally over the rainy season.

### Native Plant Recommendations/Examples: *(there are many more, these are a few examples)*

<b>Shade Plants</b>	<b>Sun Plants</b>
<i>Aquilegia chrysantha</i> Golden Columbine	<i>Agave sp. (parryi, palmeri)</i>
<i>Mimulus guttatus</i> Common monkeyflower	<i>Penstemon sp.</i>
<i>Delphinium sp.</i> Larkspur	<i>Anisacanthus thurberi</i> Desert honeysuckle
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> Cardinal flower	<i>Salvia lemmonii</i> Lemmon's sage
<i>Bouvardia ternifolia</i> Firecracker bush	<i>Erythrina flabelliformis</i> Coralbean
<i>Mimulus cardinalis</i> Cardinal monkeyflower	<i>Tecoma stans</i> Yellow bells
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i> Bee balm	<i>Epilobium canum</i> Native fuchsia
<i>Silene laciniata</i> Cardinal catchfly	<i>Lonicera arizonica</i> Arizona honeysuckle
<i>Heuchera sanguinea</i> Coralbells	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i> Desert willow

The Borderlands Restoration Network Native Plant Program grows thousands of native plants available through the Borderlands Restoration Native Plant Nursery.

Visit: [www.borderlandsrestoration.org](http://www.borderlandsrestoration.org) for full details, how to purchase plants, native seeds, and more!