

# Bee Campus USA - California State University Channel Islands

Report on 2020

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

CSUCI's landscape department planted more than 200 trees along the entrance road to campus in 2020. The trees planted included the native Toyon tree, oak trees, and willow trees. The trees line the perimeter of a new solar array being installed, as well as providing barrier along the entrance road to campus.



Lining up some of the Toyon trees to be planted near the campus entrance road at CSU Channel Islands.



CSU Channel Islands' landscapers planting one of 200 toyons along the campus entrance road.

## Education & Outreach

As you know, most plans for 2020 were not able to be completed as planned. The Committee and the campus Bee Club had many exciting plans for pollinator events in 2020 that were cancelled due to the spread of COVID-19. Before the onset of the coronavirus, Committee members did participate in a local Science Carnival, where we had a table that included display cases of native bees, a sample hive, and bee suits for kids to try on. After in-person events were cancelled due to COVID-19, the committee relied on social media posts to communicate and engage the campus and community. The committee shared curated content on the university's sustainability instagram for pollinator week and pollinator month. These posts included information on what Bee Campus USA is, tips to support pollinators, and native pollinator plants. We also featured campus pollinator gardens during live campus sustainability tours.



**5 tips**  
**TO SUPPORT POLLINATORS**

**GROW A GARDEN**  
Replace lawns with diversified gardens to enhance biodiversity

**PLANT NATIVE FLOWERS**  
Choose native flowers to provide bountiful habitat for pollinators

**AVOID PESTICIDES**  
Avoid harmful compounds in pesticides by practicing organic techniques

**MOW LAWNS LESS OFTEN**  
If you have a lawn, only mow every 2-3 weeks so pollinators can work

**PROVIDE WATER SOURCES**  
Pollinators need water. Use a shallow birdbath or a muddy spot in the yard

Five simple tips for our community to support pollinators!

**WHAT DO WE DO AS A BEE CAMPUS USA?**

- Maintain a Bee Campus Subcommittee
- Host pollinator awareness events
- Offer pollinator-focused courses
- Create pollinator habitats on campus
- Practice Integrated Pest Management

Information shared with the campus and community about some of what it takes for CSUCI to be a Bee Campus USA.

**5**  
**Native Plants**  
**FOR POLLINATORS**

During pollinator month we shared five different native plants that are great for pollinators!

## Courses & Continuing Education

One of the for-credit courses on campus that focuses most heavily on pollinators is Apiculture and Bee Biology. In this course students discuss the evolution and diversity of bees in the context of their morphology, behavior, and co-evolutionary relationships with plants. The honey bee serves as a model for understanding bee development, nutrition, physiology, and reproduction. The history of beekeeping is presented in relation to the agricultural products and services provided. The course also provides an introduction to modern beekeeping and discusses current factors affecting bee health including pests, pathogens, and management practices. Alternative crop pollinators and the pollination requirements of locally important crops are also presented. Additionally, in Organismal and Population Biology, students discuss pollinators in relation to plant biology, symbiosis, and coevolution. In the Behavioral Ecology class students performed a class activity where they made pollinator observations on three different plant species, for 10 min each. They then compared their data to expectations from the pollinator syndrome hypothesis, which states that different floral traits are adaptations for particular pollinators. For example, red tubular flowers are adapted to hummingbirds while small blue symmetric flowers are adapted to bees.

## Service-Learning

The university had exciting plans to expand pollinator gardens in 2020, including a service learning project to install a new pollinator garden featuring local pollinator-friendly plants in front of one of the university's science buildings. Unfortunately, this project was cancelled due to the switch to remote learning to keep students and faculty safe from the



spread of COVID-19. The university remained in a virtual learning environment throughout 2020 and was unable to complete any service learning projects.

## Educational Signage

We did not install any new temporary or permanent signage last year.



Bee Campus USA sign in front of one of the university's favorite pollinator gardens designed with succulents to be drought tolerant.



## Policies & Practices

The university maintained the campus IPM plan and limited pesticide use to essential needs only, prioritizing mechanical and natural pest management strategies.

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:** [integrated-weed-management-plan.pdf](#)

**Recommended Native Plant List:** [PollinatorFriendlyPlants.docx](#)

<https://nativeplants.csuci.edu/index-commonnames.htm>

**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:**

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Learn More

