



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
	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
	None	Present	None	None	Present	None	None	None
	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
	Abundant; somewhat hidden	Usually present	Sometimes present	Ample; deeply hidden	Ample; deeply hidden	Usually absent	Ample; deeply hidden	None
	Ample	Limited; often sticky, scented	Ample	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Abundant; small, smooth
	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
								

Photo credits © Merlin Tuttle, Tom Eisner, Edward Ross, Arla Altman, Chris Carvalho, Paul Growald