

# Friendly "Weeds" of Truckee Meadows

## Pollinator-Friendly Plants Commonly Misidentified as Noxious Weeds



### Showy Milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*)

Often times, this species is misidentified as its noxious sister, the common milkweed. A key difference between these two plants are the long-lobed flowers that stand upright. Showy milkweed is an important perennial plant to the Western monarch butterfly as it is the only plant these butterflies will lay their eggs on and acts as an nutritious source of food.



### Flodman Thistle (*Cirsium flodmanii*)

Many species of thistle have been placed on state and county noxious weed lists, but this thistle acts as a food source for a variety of insect and bird species. Flodman thistle can be competitive with native species due to a high tolerance to salt concentrations in soil, but attracts pollinator species with vibrant, tube-shaped, pink flowers.

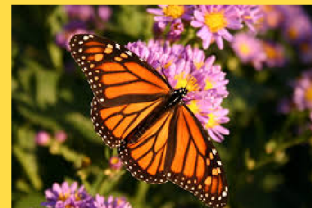


### Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)

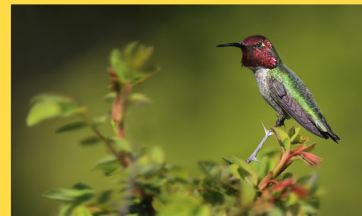
This often considered "obnoxious weed" was intentionally brought to North America from Europe for a variety of uses ranging from medicine to food and coffee. Along with the beneficial uses to human, the yellow flowers of this plant are attractive to birds and small mammals as a nutritious food source and a nectar source for pollinator bees. Instead on uprooting these beneficial plants from the lawn, allow them to flourish in support of small wildlife and pollinator bees.



## Support These Local Pollinators:



Western monarch  
(*Danaus plexippus*)



Anna's hummingbird  
(*Calypte anna*)



Yellow-banded bumble bee  
(*B. terricola*)



Long-eared bat  
(*Myotis septentrionalis*)

Visit the National Wildlife Federation "Native Plant Finder" online to pick the best native species for your garden!

For more information and resources, check out this link:

