

Hummingbird Gardening



It's fun to watch hummingbirds visit your flowers or feeders for nectar. You can help attract more hummingbirds to your garden by making it a place they like to visit with their favorite flowers, feeders and colors.

Hummingbirds are attracted to the color red, so choose red flowers where possible. They also prefer to feed on taller flowers, so plant flowers and flowering perennials of varying heights. Hummingbirds are also attracted to sunny areas, so make sure your hummingbird garden gets plenty of sunlight. You'll notice that most of the hummingbird-attracting plants on the lists prefer some sun. If you have a mostly shady garden it may be difficult to attract them

○=Full sun ●=Part sun ●=Shade

Annual & Perennial hummingbird plants		
Name (Scientific Name)	sun	Garden Phlox (Phlox paniculata) ○●
Adams Needle (Yucca spp.)	○●	Geraniums (Pelargonium spp.) ○●
Anise Hyssop (Agastache spp.)	○	Hollyhock (Alcea spp.) ○●
Beard Tongue (Penstemon spp.)	○	Honeysuckle (Lonicera spp.) ○●
Bee Balm (Monarda spp.)	○●	Indian Pink (Spigelia marilandica) ○/●
Canna Lily (Canna spp.)	○●	Jewelweed (Impatiens pallida & I. capensis) ●●
Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis)	○●	Larkspur (Delphinium spp.) ○●
Catmint (Nepeta spp.)	○	Lilies (Lilium spp.) ○
Clematis (Clematis spp.)	○●	Red Hot Poker (Kniphofia spp.) ○
Columbine (Aquilegia spp.)	●	Rose Mallow (Hibiscus moschutos) ○●
Coral Bells (Heuchera spp.)	○●	Rosemary (Rosmarinus spp.) ○
Cross Vine (Bignonia capreolata)	○●	Salvia (Salvia spp.) ○
Daylilies (Hemerocallis spp.)	○●	Tropical Hibiscus (Hibiscus Roseo-sinensis) ○
Flowering Tobacco (Nicotiana spp.)	○●	Trumpet Creeper (Campsis radicans) ○●
Foxglove (Digitalis spp.)	○●	Verbena (Verbena spp.) ○
Fuchsia (Fuchsia spp.)	●	Yellow Jasmine (Gelsemium sempervirens) ○●

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Male hummingbirds are very territorial. Sometimes you can observe a male chasing another away from an area he has claimed, complete with aerial dog-fights and furious chirping! Females will also chase males away from nesting areas as the male's brighter coloring may attract predators.

Tree & Shrub hummingbird plants	
Name (Scientific Name)	sun
Mimosa (Albizia julibrissin)	○●
Horse Chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum)	○
Buckeye (Aesculus spp.)	○●
Black Locust (Robinia pseudoacacia)	○
Flowering Crabapple (Malus spp.)	○
Hawthorn (Crataegus spp.)	○
Butterfly Bush (Buddleia spp.)	○
Flowering Quince (Chaenomeles spp.)	○●
Wisteria (Wisteria spp.)	○●
Azalea (Rhododendron spp.)	○/●
Coralberry (Symphoricarpos orbiculatus)	○●
Weigela (Weigela spp.)	○●
Lilac (Lilac spp.)	○●

A hummingbird feeder will supply your hummingbird visitors with a food source even when you don't have their favorite flowers in bloom. To make your own hummingbird nectar, mix 1 part sugar to 4 parts hot water until completely dissolved. Do not add red coloring (it can harm hummingbirds). Fill your favorite hummingbird feeder with the cooled sugar solution. Extra nectar can be stored in the refrigerator. Empty and clean the feeder weekly with vinegar & water (not soap). To repel ants and bees, coat the hanger and the feeding tubes with petroleum jelly. Place the feeder near your hummingbird flowers in a sunny area. If you have multiple feeders, keep a distance between them so one hummingbird doesn't "claim" them all and chase off other hummingbirds coming to feed (see sidebar).

Hummingbirds have great memories, and once they learn you have made your garden a hummingbird paradise, they will return year after year, delighting you for many seasons to come.



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