

Attracting Hummingbirds

Hummingbirds are beautiful and fascinating creatures that can add color and excitement to your garden. Additionally, they benefit the ecosystem through their masterful pollination, and will benefit you personally by consuming insects in your garden. Attracting hummingbirds to your garden is likely more simple than you think!



Feeders: Hummingbirds are constantly on the search for food to fuel their rapid movement; if they find your feeder, they will use it! Feeders should be hung 3 to 5 feet from the ground and contain a concoction of 4 cups water to 1 cup sugar. Rinse feeders every 3 days with hot water and refill to avoid rotting, and once a month thoroughly clean them with water and white vinegar.

Planting: Strategic planting will also attract hummingbirds to your garden. Hummingbirds have virtually no sense of smell, therefore are attracted to color and shape. Plant flowers with *tubular shapes* in *reds, oranges, and pinks* to draw in hummingbirds. Include trees and shrubs within 10-20 feet of flowers to provide shelter for your hummingbirds. Try to include plants that bloom at different times of season to provide hummingbirds with nectar year-round. Do not use pesticides! Hummingbirds will eat insects for you, and consumption of pesticides will severely harm hummingbirds. Native plants are extra effective at attracting hummingbirds as they provide them with natural food, and have been marked with an *(N)* on the list below.

Plants that Attract Hummingbirds

Perennials

- *Agastache* – anise hyssop (N)
- *Aquilega* – columbine (N)
- *Chelone* – turtlehead (N)
- *Cuphea* – cigar flower
- *Delphinium* - larkspur
- *Dianthus* – pinks
- *Dicentra eximia* – bleeding heart (N)
- *Digitalis purpea* – foxglove
- *Hemerocallis* - daylily
- *Heuchera* – coral bells
- *Hibiscus* – hardy hibiscus
- *Hosta* – hosta
- *Kniphofia* – red hot poker
- *Liatris* - gayfeather
- *Lilium* – hardy lily (N)
- *Lobelia* – cardinal flower (N)
- *Lupinus* – lupine
- *Penstemon* – beardtongue
- *Phlox paniculata* - summer phlox
- *Mondara* – bee balm (N)

Annuals and Bulbs

- Canna
- Fuchsia
- Impatiens
- Lantana
- Nasturtium
- Petunia
- Salvia
- Shrimp plant

Trees and Shrubs

- *Acanthus mollis* – bear’s breeches
- *Aesculus pavia* – red buckeye (N)
- *Buddleia* – butterfly bush
- *Chaenomeles* – flowering quince
- *Hibiscus syriacus* – rose of Sharon
- *Liriodendron tulipifera* – tulip tree (N)
- *Weigela* – weigela
- *Yucca* – yucca

Vines

- *Campis radicans* – trumpetcreeper (N)
- *Ipomea purpea* – morning glory (N)
- *Lonicera* - honeysuckle
- *Phaseolus coccineus* – scarlet runner bean

(N) indicates native plants, which are extra effective at attracting hummingbirds