

# Attracting Hummingbirds to Your Garden

The most common hummingbirds in our area are the Broad-tailed, the Rufous, and the Black-chinned. You may also occasionally spot a Calliope, a Ruby-throated, or an Anna's. The first hummingbirds to show up are the males; the females will appear a couple weeks later, when the weather is warmer and better for nesting and hatching. Hummingbirds, like most birds, have no sense of smell, so to attract them to your garden you need brightly colored flowers. They are most attracted to shades of red, orange, purple, or bright pink. That's why hummingbird feeders are usually red.

## Using Hummingbird Feeders

Hummingbirds typically start to show up around the 15<sup>th</sup> of April and leave around the 15<sup>th</sup> of September. Hummingbirds remember where they found food last year and will return there in hopes of finding some again. So, if you've put feeders out for them in the past, they will remember and come looking for them. If this is your first time, hummingbirds will usually find a new feeder within a couple weeks of having it up.

### Homemade Hummingbird Nectar Recipe

Mix **4 cups water** and **1 cup white table sugar**, stir until sugar is dissolved and bring to a brief boil. Let cool before filling your feeder.

- ❖ 1-part white sugar to 4 parts water very closely mimics natural nectar. Be sure to use only plain refined white sugar. Do not use raw or organic sugars as they may contain harmful levels of iron.
- ❖ There is also no need to add red food coloring to the nectar, as it may be harmful to the birds.
- ❖ Remember to change out the nectar in the feeders at least once a week, more often as the weather heats up.
- ❖ It's a good practice to bring the feeders in at night to discourage any visits from bears or raccoons.
- ❖ An ant moat will help keep ants out of the feeder, just make sure to keep it filled with water.

## Attracting Hummingbirds with Flowers

A bright garden full of blooming plants is sure to attract hummingbirds, but their favorites include flowers that are rich in nectar, long or tapered in shape, and bright in color. Planning your garden so that you always have something booming or filling in with annuals will keep them visiting all season long.

### FLOWERS TO ATTRACT

#### HUMMINGBIRDS

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| ❖ Penstemon            | ❖ Delphinium             |
| ❖ Monarda (Bee Balm)   | ❖ Heuchera (Coral Bells) |
| ❖ Salvia               | ❖ Nepeta (Cat Mint)      |
| ❖ Dicentra             | ❖ Ribes (Currants)       |
| ❖ Digitalis (Foxglove) | ❖ Cleome                 |
| ❖ Lupine               | ❖ Fuchsia                |
| ❖ Columbine            | ❖ Geranium               |
| ❖ Agastache (Hyssop)   | ❖ Salvia                 |
| ❖ Alcea (Hollyhock)    | ❖ Petunias               |



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