



Attracting Hummingbirds

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Gardeners are endlessly fascinated by the acrobatic antics and beauty of these tiny birds. Hummingbirds eat constantly from dawn to dusk and may visit over 1,000 flowers a day. Their ability to hover in mid-air while feeding allows them to sip quickly before moving to the next flower. Provide hummingbirds with shade, shelter, food and security and enjoy these summer visitors.

Hummingbirds, like most birds, have almost no sense of smell and are attracted to flowers by color, not fragrance. They prefer blossoms which are tubular, pendant and highly visible (red, orange and dark purple colors are great favorites) since the birds feed by sight. In fact, they feed 3-5 times an hour and eat 7 times their body weight every day. Careful planning on your part will provide them with available feeding flowers in your garden from early spring to fall. Many native plants actually produce more nectar than some of the new cultivated hybrids.

Hummingbirds spend a lot of their time perching on twigs. They are very inquisitive by nature and will quickly investigate anything new you plant in your garden. It is helpful if you can provide them with fresh drinking water (preferably moving) as well as some shade. Do not use pesticides around the birds as they depend on getting protein by eating insects.

Perennials

Alcea rosea	(Hollyhock)	Lilium	(Lily)
Asclepias	(Butterfly Weed)	Lobelia card.	(Cardinal Flower)
Agastache	(Anise Hyssop)	Lupinus	(Lupine)
Aquilegia	(Columbine)	Monarda	(Bee Balm)
Aster		Nepeta	(Catmint)
Campanula	(Bellflower)	Penstemon	(Beard Tongue)
Canna		Perovskia	(Russian Sage)
Dicentra	(Bleeding Heart)	Phlox	
Digitalis	(Foxglove)	Physostegia	(Obedient Plant)
Hemerocallis	(Daylily)	Pulmonaria	(Lungwort)
Heuchera	(Coral Bells)	Salvia	(Sage)
Hibiscus	(Rose Mallow)	Scabiosa	(Pincushion) Hosta
Veronica	(Speedwell)	Kniphofia	(Red-hot Poker)
Verbascum	(Mullein)	Vinca	(Periwinkle)

Annuals

Cleome	Nicotiana
Dahlia	Petunia
Dianthus	Red Cannas
Fuschia	Salvia
Geranium	Snapdragons
Marigolds	Verbena
Nasturtium	Zinnia

Vines

Campsis rad. (Trumpet Vine)
Clematis
Dolichos lablab (Hyacinth Vine)
Ipomoea sloteri (Cardinal Vine)

Ipomoea tricolor (Morning Glory)
Lonicera (Honeysuckle)
Mandevilla
Scarlet Runner Bean

Bushes

Azalea
Buddleia (Butterfly Bush)
Clethra Summersweet)
Daphne

Hibiscus
Spiraea
Viburnum
Weigela

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