

Hummingbird Garden Basics

Basic Needs: A hummingbird needs water, shelter, nesting sites and food. For water, a shallow basin with ¼ inch of water (cleaned and refilled daily) works best. A small tree or larger shrub will provide shelter and nesting spots. Hummingbirds eat small insects and spiders to provide dietary protein. Baby hummingbirds are raised on insects. Keep your garden insect-friendly by avoiding pesticides. Provide a variety of plants for continuous bloom, to attract those insects and provide a daily source of nectar.

Size: A hummingbird garden does not need to be large to be beneficial. Hummingbirds are territorial. A long, narrow garden lets them spread out more and gives you a better view.

Sun or Shade: An ideal garden will have both sun and shade during the day.

Nectar feeders: Small insects and nectar from plants is better for hummingbirds than sugar water. If you chose to provide sugar water, don't buy the red stuff! Dissolve 1/4 cup of sugar in 1 cup of water to make your own. Be sure to wash the feeder and put in fresh sugar water every 3 to 4 days.

Structures: Many of our native vines attract hummingbirds. Vines are best supported on a low fence or a trellis. You can build a simple tripod support with 3 long poles and some rope.



About our Logo: The Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) is a host plant for the Silvery Checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*) butterfly. The caterpillars eat the leaves of the Black-eyed Susan. The Carolina Chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*) feeds the caterpillars to it's young. Adult birds will eat the butterflies, the caterpillars and the seeds of the Black-eyed Susan.

On the cover: Female Ruby Throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*).
Photo by Kathy Fell

For more information, visit our web site at
www.plantvirginianatives.org/about-2

Hummingbird Gardens



Plants for Hummingbird Gardens

Select several species for continuous bloom



Photo by Kathy Fell

Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) is a small tree, growing up to 30 feet tall. Hummingbirds and small insects are attracted to the pink flowers which bloom from March to May.



Photo by Denise Green

New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) is a small shrub, growing to 3 ft tall. Clusters of fragrant, small white flowers bloom from May to June, attracting hummingbirds and small insects.



Photo by Lizz Stanley

Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis radicans*) is a perennial, woody vine that climbs by aerial rootlets. Tubular, red-orange flowers bloom from June to July, attracting hummingbirds.



Photo by Gary Fleming

Vasevine (*Clematis viorna*) is a perennial, herbaceous twining vine. Hummingbirds are attracted to the purple, bell-shaped flowers which bloom from May to September.



Photo by Lizz Stanley

Trumpet Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) is a perennial, woody twining vine. Tubular, scarlet flowers bloom March to July, attracting hummingbirds.



Photo by Kathy Fell

Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) Clusters of orange blossoms attract hummingbirds from May to August. Full to part sun, dry to moist soil.



Photo by Gary Fleming

Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) Annual with spotted orange and yellow flowers blooms May to November. Part to full shade, moist to wet soil.



Photo by Janice Walker

Dwarf Iris (*Iris verna*) Blue-violet flowers with a yellow beard bloom from March to May. Part shade, dry to moist soil.



Photo by Amanda Slaughter

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) Red tubular flowers bloom from July to October. Full sun to part shade, moist to wet soil.



Photo by Gary Fleming

Smooth Beardtongue (*Penstemon laevigatus*) White flowers bloom from August to October, attracting hummingbirds and insects. Full sun to shade, moist to wet soil.

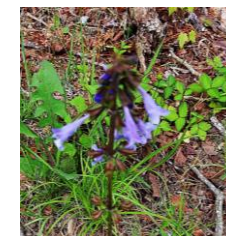


Photo by Janice Walker

Lyre Leaf Sage (*Salvia lyrata*) Tubular lavender-blue flowers bloom from April to May. Full to part sun, dry to moist soil.

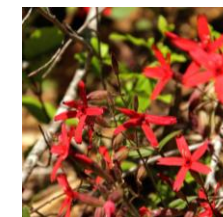


Photo by Joe Bonanno

Fire Pink (*Silene virginica*) Scarlet, star-shaped flowers bloom from April to July. Full sun to shade, dry to moist soil.

Other perennial forbs for hummingbird gardens:

- *Asclepias incarnata* (Swamp Milkweed)
- *Asclepias syriaca* (Common Milkweed)
- *Cleome glabra* (White Turtlehead)
- *Clematis ochroleuca* (Curlyheads)
- *Heuchera americana* (Coral Bells)
- *Liatris pilosa* (Grass-leaf Blazing Star)
- *Mimulus ringens* (Alleghany Monkeyflower)
- *Polygonatum biflorum* (Solomon's Seal)
- *Silphium asteriscus* (Starry Rosinweed)
- *Solidago* ssp (Goldenrod species)
- *Vernonia noveboracensis* (New York Ironweed)