

Nectar freezes at temperatures below 29 degrees. There are several options to prevent this.

- Bring the feeder(s) in at night and have another one ready to go out in its place the next morning.
- Use a string of lights to keep the feeders warm enough to avoid freezing.
- Insulate the feeder with a fuzzy fabric, hand warmers or plumber's heat tape.
- It is also possible to increase your sugar water ratio to 3:1 instead of 4:1. More sugar in the water will not freeze as quickly.

FAVORITE FLOWERS

Hummingbirds love to zip around your garden looking for flowers to sip on. Here are some of their favorites.

- Agastache (Hyssop)
- Aquilegia (Columbine)
- Buddleia (Butterfly bush)
- Campsis radicans (Trumpet Vine)
- Cuphea 'Vermillionaire' (Firecracker Plant)
- Delphinium
- Dicentra (Bleeding Heart)
- Fuchsia
- Kniphofia (Red Hot Poker)
- Lobelia (Cardinal Flower)
- Lonicera (Honeysuckle)
- Lupinus (Lupine)
- Monarda (Bee Balm)



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- Passiflora (Passion Flower)
- Penstemon (Beardtongue)
- Petunia
- Phygelius (Cape Fuchsia)
- Salvia, they especially love 'Hot Lips'
- Zinnia elegans (Zinnia)

HUMMINGBIRDS



Attracting & Caring For These
Important Pollinators



HUMMINGBIRDS

Hummingbirds are important pollinators for many flowering plants. These tiny birds use a tremendous amount of energy and need a constant source of nourishment. They feed every 10 minutes and can visit up to 1,000 - 2,000 plants per day! You can help support hummingbirds by following these suggested tips.

- Plant brightly colored flowers with tubular forms.
- Place feeders around your garden.
- Provide a source of moving water such as misters, sprinklers and bubblers for hummingbirds to bathe and drink from.
- Use natural alternatives to chemical insecticides. Hummingbirds eat insects and spiders. The babies still in the nest eat mostly only insects. Insects treated with chemicals are toxic to the birds.
- Plant natives which will attract an abundance of insects and spiders.
- Create safe places for hummingbirds to rest and perch.

USING FEEDERS

Nectar

Ready-made nectar is available, but you can also make your own. Simply heat a mixture of one part sugar to four parts tap water until the sugar dissolves. Once the nectar has cooled, pour it into the feeder. You can refrigerate extra nectar for up to one week. **Only use regular white sugar.** Other sugars, like brown or organic, contain iron which is harmful. Avoid food coloring. The birds will be attracted to the colors on the feeders.

Feeders

There are a variety of hummingbird feeders available. For best results, place several small feeders throughout your garden. Having several feeders around your garden will accommodate many hummingbirds. This is helpful since hummingbirds are aggressively territorial.

Large feeders are acceptable, however, they can take longer to empty which can lead to the growth of mold and bacteria. If you have a large feeder, make sure to empty and clean it every 4-5 days.

Cleaning Feeders

Clean feeders every 4-5 days with a 1:2 solution of vinegar (or hydrogen peroxide) and water. You can also use bleach (just a few tablespoons) but be very careful about rinsing it thoroughly. Bleach is harmful if ingested. Use

a brush to get into the nooks and crannies of all parts of the feeder.

Pests

Nectar attracts other insects that you may not want around.

Ants - Place an ant moat over the feeder or get a feeder that has an ant moat built in. Keep the moats filled with water and the ants will not be able to proceed any further.

Bees - Do not trap and kill bees since they are important. Deter them by making sure the feeder is not leaking. You can also relocate the feeder for a few days. Once you return it the bees won't remember it but the hummingbirds will. Some feeders also have bee guards.

Wasps, Hornets & Yellow Jackets - Yellow jackets, wasps and hornets can be aggressive toward hummingbirds. You can use the same tactics to distract bees or set up a trap. Also limit attractants to the area by sealing garbage can lids and thoroughly rinsing recyclables.

Feeding in Winter

Insects and plant nectar that hummingbirds eat are not as available during the winter months. Well-stocked feeders that are frequently cleaned will ensure that the hummingbirds stay in your garden.