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Attracting Hummingbirds

Hummingbirds are a welcome sight in the garden. Their brightly colored feathers have earned them the title "flying jewels." Here is some information on bringing them to your garden:

Plant Selection

Hummingbirds are drawn to bright red, orange, and pink flowers. They associate these colors with nectar so strongly that a red piece of plastic will be enough to get their attention.

Annuals

<i>Begonia</i> spp.	Begonia
<i>Cleome</i> spp.	Spider Flower
<i>Impatiens</i> spp.	Impatiens
<i>Nicotiana</i> spp.	Flowering Tobacco
<i>Pelargonium</i> spp.	Geranium
<i>Petunia</i> spp.	Petunia
<i>Salvia coccinea</i>	Scarlet Sage
<i>Zinnia</i> spp.	Zinnia

Perennials

<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Columbine
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Weed
<i>Delphinium</i> spp.	Larkspur
<i>Dianthus</i> spp.	Pinks
<i>Hemerocallis</i> spp.	Daylilies
<i>Heuchera</i> spp.	Coral Bells
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Rose Mallow
<i>Kniphofia</i> spp.	Poker Plant
<i>Lilium</i> spp.	Hardy Lilies
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower
<i>Lychnis chalcedonica</i>	Maltese Cross
<i>Lychnis coronaria</i>	Rose Campion
<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Bee Balm
<i>Nepeta</i> spp.	Catmint
<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Garden Phlox
<i>Salvia</i> spp.	Sage
<i>Saponaria ocymoides</i>	Rock Soapwort
<i>Verbena canadensis</i>	Creeping Vervain

Vines

<i>Campsis</i> spp.	Trumpetvine
<i>Lablab purpureus</i>	Hyacinth Bean
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	Nasturtium

Trees and Shrubs

<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	Red Buckeye
<i>Abelia</i> spp.	Abelia
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry
<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Butterfly Bush
<i>Camellia</i> spp.	Camellia
<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	Rose of Sharon
<i>Rhododendron max.</i>	Rosebay Rhododendron
<i>Weigela florida</i>	Weigela

Feeders

Once a hummingbird finds your garden it will return as long as the nectar supply lasts. Since most flowers have a limited period of nectar production, a hummingbird feeder ensures that a constant supply is available. A simple nectar substitute can be made by boiling a 4:1 water to sugar ratio for two minutes. Avoid using honey because it spoils quickly and can spread bacteria that are fatal to hummingbirds. Feeders should be cleaned weekly.

Sources

This sheet has been compiled both from experience and *Attracting Hummingbirds and Butterflies* (edited by James D. Blume)