

NATIVE FLOWERS ATTRACT HUMMINGBIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN

As Hummingbirds pack their bags and leave our area for the winter, it is a good time to prepare your garden for their return in the spring. Have you hosted any Hummingbirds this past summer? If so, you certainly noticed their fast and almost constant motion.

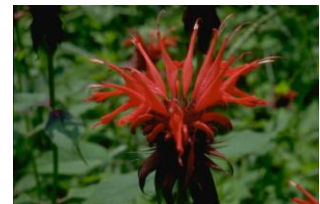


Hummingbirds need plenty of nectar to supply the energy consumed by their active lifestyles. Nectar found in flowers is quite similar to the sugar water you put in your feeders, but Mother Nature does the maintenance and clean-up. A combination of nectar feeders and selected flowering plants will make your property a haven for Hummingbirds.

If you are thinking about adding garden plants to attract hummingbirds, there are many choices. Hummingbird lovers might have already observed that these birds are attracted to bright red nectar flowers such as Bee Balm—[Monarda didyma](#), Cardinal Flower—[Lobelia cardinalis](#), and Coral Honeysuckle—[Lonicera sempervirens](#).



While flower color is important to Hummingbirds, they also are attracted by suitable flower shapes. They prefer spikes of tubular flowers that fit their unique tongues and beaks. Then, they look for easy-to-reach stamens that extend outward beyond the flower opening. The birds also need space around the flower where leaves and branches do not interfere with feeding. Think of adding Delphiniums or Blue Lobelia—[Lobelia siphilitica](#) to your garden for variety.



For those who cannot resist the traditional color groupings, there are also two outstanding white perennial flowers that Hummingbirds will enjoy. In order to complete the patriotic red, white, and blue theme, consider adding Turtlehead—[Chelone glabra](#) or Foxglove—[Penstemon digitalis](#).





Yellow Springs Farm

NATIVE PLANTS NURSERY

As an added benefit, many of the plants that attract hummingbirds, red, white, or blue, do double duty in also attracting butterflies to your garden. It is fun and informative to keep a log of all the new species of birds and butterflies that arrive as you add beneficial plants to your garden.

These plants are available at our [online store](#) or at our farm by [appointment](#).