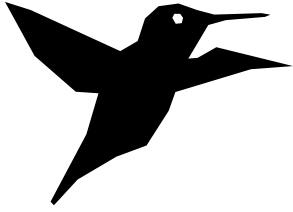


into your garden or landscape.



One good way to enjoy the company of hummingbirds is to plant a hummingbird garden. In addition to providing them a safe natural diet, a hummingbird garden is an excellent way to attract them to your nearby feeder. Since hummingbirds, like most birds, have virtually no sense of smell, the flowers that attract them tend to have little or no fragrance. They feed by sight on a regularly-followed route. Their inquisitive nature will quickly lead them to investigate any possible new source of food.

Hummingbirds consume about half their body weight in nectar each day, feeding approximately every 10 to 15 minutes. (They also eat small insects, especially during nesting season and before coastal migration.) All that sipping means they require access to many blooms every day and hummingbirds can be very territorial about their favorite food sources.

You can use a feeder (with care).

In WNC, hummingbirds typically arrive in late March to early April. The best color for a feeder is bright red to attract the birds from a distance. Never fill your feeders with anything but a sugar-water (mixture of 1-part sugar to 4 parts water). Do not use food coloring of any kind and never use honey! (Honey can develop a fungus which can be fatal to hummingbirds.) Clean feeders **at least once each week** with a hot water and vinegar solution instead of soap. Do not worry about leaving your feeders out in fall. Hummingbirds migrate on changing day length, not on availability of food.

It's better to invite Hummingbirds with your plant choices.

Native plants in general are a solid choice when considering what to plant to give them a rich variety of food and other habitat resources. Provide a variety of plants that produce flowers at different times in the season to best align with the resources hummingbirds require to successfully recover after long migrations, raise their young and fuel up to prepare for their fall migrations.

Plant a combination of these to get your garden on a regular hummingbird route. Availability and varieties are always changing so check with us for suitable alternatives.

Annuals

Impatiens, Lantana, Morning Glory, Petunia, Salvia, Sunflower, Zinnia

Perennials and Vines

Agastache, Hollyhock, Bleeding Heart, Columbine, Milkweed, Clematis, Crossvine, Carolina Jessamine, Delphinium, Foxglove, Daylily, Huechera, Hibiscus, Coral Honeysuckle, Red Hot Poker, Lavender, Cardinal Flower/

Lobelia, Lupine, Beebalm and Monarda family, Catmint (Nepeta), Jewelweed, Penstemon, Phlox, Obedience Plant, Sage (Salvia), Trumpet Vine, Veronica Speedwell, Yarrow

Shrubs

Abelia, Native Azalea, Buckeye, Buttonbush, Mountain Laurel, Pepperbush, Cotoneaster, Lilac, Quince, Rose of Sharon, Weigela.

Attracting Hummingbirds

into your garden or landscape.

Color me in!

Image: Nonuzza, via Dreamstime

