

# Attracting Hummingbirds To Your Garden

## Creating a Hummingbird Friendly Garden at Home

Go feeder free by utilizing these tips to attract hummingbirds to your garden by supplying nature's elements they need to thrive

### Choose Flowering Natives

Research and select native plants that specifically attract hummingbirds because they won't necessarily feed on all flowering plants.

### Predator Free Yard

When placing feeders, water features, flowering plants keep them either away, or well above, where any sit and wait type of predators (cats, bullfrogs, etc) may be lurking and waiting to pounce.

### Offer Water

Yes they do need water, but they will not typically frequent a regular birdbath it's a bit intimidating for them. Try a mister or a drip system.

### Spread Out the Resources

Hummingbirds like their space and can become combative if overcrowded. When you are planning stages your garden be able to set aside several spots in your yard with flowering natives. If you do decide to hang feeders remember to spread them out.

### Create Perches for Lookout Spots

Hummingbirds are always on high alert whether it's for food, predators, or other hummingbirds. Use dead branches to create lookouts in living trees or simply leave some dead limbs that are not a safety concern behind.

### Maintain Natives Already On Site

Letting a part of your yard "go wild" sounds great but first get to know the good, bad and ugly that is already established. Maintain the good - and remove the bad and ugly.

### Chemical Free

Hummingbirds feed on small insects and will feed them to their young. Simply avoid using fertilizers or pesticides, they are also harmful to butterflies, insects, other birds and other wildlife that frequent your yard.

## Getting to Know the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

The Ruby-Throated Hummingbird is the most common species found in Wisconsin, but not the only type to call Wisconsin home

The Ruby-Throated Hummingbird weighs less than a nickel.

They are able to beat their wings 60 to 80 times a second.

With their unique flexible shoulder joint they are able to rotate their wings 180 degrees while still buzzing back and forth in a figure 8 pattern.

30% of their body weight can be found in their chest muscles. For such a tiny bird they pack a lot of punch, but it has its downfalls.

Hummingbirds don't walk rather they can only perch or scoot sideways.

Like many other small birds they too are able to enter controlled hypothermia when the nights are cold. They do this to conserve energy.

It is the only hummingbird species to nest east of the Mississippi River.



### Hummingbird Nectar Recipe

Honey is NOT a substitute - it can inhibit dangerous fungal growth, also red food dye is not necessary could be harmful to birds

#### MATERIALS

- 1/4 cup refined white sugar
- 1 cup boiling water
- bowl
- whisk / spoon

#### STEPS

- Mix sugar and boiling water until dissolved
- Cool & fill clean feeder
- Hang outside out of direct sunlight