

Hummingbirds are a delight in the garden, adding a dimension of wonder at their tiny size and voracious appetites. Drought, disturbed habitats, and abuse of chemicals have reduced the hummingbird population. You can play an important role in their conservation by creating a habitat for them. They may favor flowers in shades of red, but they like an abundance of flowers of many colors. Narrow, tubular, or pendant flowers are best suited to the elongated beak and tongue of the hummingbird, which feeds almost constantly. Shrubs, vines and trees provide shelter, perching and nesting spots.



The ruby-throated hummingbird is the only species to nest east of the Mississippi River. (Sphinx moths are similar in appearance and are often mistaken for hummingbirds.) The ruby-throated hummingbird begins its migration northward, across the Gulf of Mexico, as early as late February. They arrive in the Mid-Atlantic area in April.

Once the hummingbirds discover a garden, they will return year after year. The best way to draw hummingbirds and encourage them to stay is to provide both hummingbird feeders and nectar producing plants in your garden. If you are late to hang a feeder you may see a hummingbird hovering where the feeder was last year! Choose plants that catch the eye of migrating hummingbirds early in the season. Then provide continuous bright, flowering, nectar-producing plants through out the season. Use a vine-covered trellis or fence and large dense shrubs to establish a feeding territory. Fill hanging baskets and window boxes with flowers to enjoy

close-up observation of hummingbirds.

Some small insects are important to the hummingbird diet. If you must control insects in the hummingbird garden, bring a sample of the pest to Merrifield Garden Centers' plant clinic for correct identification and recommendations on the least toxic control options.

Hummingbird food can be purchased or made at home. Follow the directions or use one part cane sugar to four parts boiling water. Boil the water, then measure it, then add the sugar. This way you obtain the correct concentration. Fill the feeder after the syrup has cooled. Store left over syrup in the refrigerator for one week. **It is very important to clean the feeder thoroughly once every week as the syrup can ferment and spoil, harming the hummingbirds.**

## PLANTS THAT ATTRACT HUMMINGBIRDS

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
<b>PERENNIALS</b>		<b>PERENNIALS</b>	
Alcea	Hollyhock	Iris	Iris
Asclepias	Butterfly Weed	Kniphofia	Red Hot Poker
Aquilegia	Columbine	Liatris	Gayfeather
Buddleia	Butterfly Bush	Lilium	Lilly
Centranthus	Red Valerian	Lobelia	Cardinal Flower
Chelone	Pink Turtleheads	Lychnis	Lychnis
Ceratostigma	Leadwort	Lupinus	Lupine
Crocasmia	Crocasmia	Monarda	Bee Balm
Dianthus	Sweet William	Nepeta	Catmint
Dicentra	Bleeding Hearts	Penstemon	Penstemon
Digitalis	Foxglove	Phlox	Creeping Phlox/Summer Phlox
Delphinium	Larkspur	Physostegia	False Dragonhead
Echinacea	Purple Cone Flower	Platycodon	Japanese Balloon Flowers
Echinops	Globe Thistle	Rudbeckia	Black-eyed-Susan
Heuchera	Coral Bells	Scabiosa	Pincushion Flower
Hemerocallis	Daylily	Verbena	Verbena
Hibiscus	Tropical/Hardy Hibiscus		
<b>ANNUALS</b>		<b>ANNUALS</b>	
Canna	Canna	Lantana	Lantana
Dianthus	Sweet William	Mirabilis	Four-o'clocks
Fuchsia	Fuchsia	Nicotiana	Flowering Tobacco
Hibiscus	Tropical/Hardy	Salvia	Salvia
Impatiens	Impatiens	Schlumbergera	Christmas Cactus
Justica	Shrimp Plant	Zinnia	Zinnia
<b>SHRUBS</b>		<b>SHRUBS</b>	
Abelia	Glossy Abelia	Mahonia	Oregon Grape Holly
Althea	Rose-of- Sharon	Rhododendron	Rhododendron
Azalea	Azalea	Syringa	Common Lilac
Buddleia	Butterfly Bush	Viburnum	Viburnum
Camellia sasanqua	Sasanqua Camellia	Vitex	Chaste Tree
Chaenomeles	Flowering Quince	Weigela	Old Fashioned Weigela
Elaeagnus	Russian Olive	Yucca	Yucca
Jasminum	Winter Jasmine		
<b>TREES</b>		<b>TREES</b>	
Aesculus	Horse Chestnut	Prunus	Cherry Tree
Albizia	Mimosa	Ribes	Currant
Liriodendron	Tulip Poplar	Robinia	Black Locust
Malus	Crabapple	Sophora	Pagoda

### MERRIFIELD

8132 Lee Highway,  
Merrifield, VA 22116  
703-560-6222

### FAIR OAKS

12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax,  
VA 22030  
703-968-9600

### GAINESVILLE

6895 Wellington Road,  
Gainesville, VA 20156  
703-368-1919