



Hummingbirds Favorite Flowers



Patty's Plants

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Hummingbirds are amazing creatures. If you've ever been in a garden working or enjoying it and had a hummingbird buzz by your head, you have to just freeze and watch them. I usually hold my breath, afraid I'll disturb them and they'll fly away. The way they buzz from one flower to the next is incredible. This spring before your garden flowers are blooming get ready for the hummingbirds. Clean out the feeder use only water, vinegar and a stiff bottle brush since birds are sensitive to chemicals. Clean often since the sugar water can create mold and bacteria quickly. Many diseases can spread and we don't want to make these special birds sick. Here is a nectar recipe and some of their favorite flowers.

How to make your own nectar:

Mix 4 parts water to 1 part sugar

Boil until all sugar is dissolved

Cool. Do not add food coloring, they don't need it and it's not good for them.

Change the solution every 3 days or so. Keep leftovers in frig for 1 week.

Top favorite flowers for hummers: Butterflies love them too!

Bee Balm (Monarda didyma)- A perennial in zones 4-9. It blooms in June and July. Bee balm comes in all shades of red, pinks and purples. It grows 20"-36" tall with a 3-5 ft spread. This flower grows in sun to light shade it will continue to bloom if you prune the old flowers off.

Butterfly Bush (Buddleia species)- Hardy to zones 4-9. Should be mulched over in colder zones. It blooms summer to fall with fragrant lilac shaped flowers. This plant can get 6-15 ft tall and 4-10 ft wide. Sun to light shade is preferred.

Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa)- This beautiful bright orange flowered perennial (4-9) blooms summer to fall. It will reseed in other areas of your garden. Sun is best. It gets 2-3 ft tall by 12-24" wide.

Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis)-This has a perfect red trumpet flower that hummingbirds seem to be most attracted to. A perennial: zones 4-9, it grows 3-4ft tall and 2ft wide. Plant in fertile, moist soil in part shade to full sun.

Fuchsia (Fuchsia species)-Fuchsia hanging baskets are a must for me. This annual will attract hummers all summer long. Place your fuchsia on a north or east porch. They like it a bit cooler so shade is good. Always pick off the fruit after the flower falls to promote new flowers.

Honeysuckle Vine (Lonicera) The fragrant trumpet-shaped flowers are very attractive to hummingbirds, and most birds like the red or black berries. The leaves provide food for the larvae of many butterflies. I have a variegated leaf variety with pale pink and yellow flowers. My hummers love it. Be careful with this vine though some can be very invasive.

Salvia (Salvia splendens)-Annual salvias come in reds, purples and coral. Hummers love their trumpet flowers. Plant in full sun. Deadhead the flowers to keep them blooming all summer.

Snapdragons (Antirrhinum)-Another annual I must put in my garden are snapdragons. They remind me of my grandmother. She would show me how to play with them like tiny talking puppets. Grow in full sun to part shade. They will keep hummers around until frost.

Trumpet Vine (Campsis radicans)-A perennial vine hardy in zones 4-9. Once it gets established it will be very hard to get rid of, so make sure this is the vine for you. The hummers love it.

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