

Although many plants attract hummingbirds, the best attractors are tubular in shape, and many (but not all) are red. Remember to provide a nectar source from late spring through first frost, and convenient places for hummingbirds to nest and perch. Hummingbirds also need a water source, such as sprinklers. Keep in mind that many broad-spectrum pesticides eliminate many of the small insects that hummingbirds rely on for protein sources.

We have provided a list of sun and shade loving perennials, which attract hummingbirds. Remember, many plants are subject to seasonal availability. We do our best to carry these plants when ever available.



Sun Perennials for hummingbirds

Agastache Anise Hyssop- Flowers July – Sept. Well drained soil, avoid wet feet. Flower color ranges from light blue to pink and orange. Size varies from 18-36” tall and wide.

Alcea Hollyhock- Usually a biennial blooming in the second year. Many large single or double flowers up a tall stalk. Best in a sunny, well drained. Blooms July – Sept. Grows to 5-7’ tall and wide.

Aquilegia Columbine- The various species of Columbine bring color and texture to the spring and summer garden. Graceful spurred flowers bloom May - June in a wide range of colors. Size varies from 18-42” t/w

Crocoshmia- A late summer bloomer (July - September) that is a hummingbird favorite. Tubular orange to yellow flowers range in size from 12”-4’ tall and spreading.

Delphinium- Various colors of flowers ranging from white to blue. All prefer fertile, well-drained soil. Cut Delphinium back and tidy after blooming in June for a second bloom in September. Size ranges from 2-6’ tall and 2-3’ wide.

Digitalis Foxglove- Foxglove grows best in a woodland setting, but adapts well to border conditions. Dead heading encourages continual. All species self seed, and are biennial (blooms the second year). A huge range of colors from rust and yellow to pinks and purples. Blooms June - August. Size varies from 12”-3’ tall and 12-18” wide.

Hemerocallis Daylily- Large blooms in warm colors ranging from yellow to maroon. The many varieties bloom at different times, and combine well to extend the bloom season from May - August. Size ranges from 12 – 36” tall and wide.

Kniphofia Red-hot poker- Spikes of orange/yellow flowers July – Sept. Size varies from 24-40” tall by 18-24” wide.

Lupinus Lupine- These plants grow best in deep, rich, neutral or acidic soil. Good drainage is essential. Spikes of blooms June through July. Size range 18-40” t/12”w.

Lychis- Hardy, easy to grow plants for the perennial border. Best in well-drained soil. Size ranges from 12-30”t/12”w.

Monarda Bee-Balm- Shaggy pincushion flowers bloom June – Sept. A wide variety

of bright colors. Best in rich, moist, well-drained soil. Watch for powdery mildew on foliage. Size ranges from 30-48” tall and 18” wide.

Nepeta Catmint- 6’t/w. Spikes of blue to purple flowers June – Sept. Moderately drought tolerant. Size varies from 12”-3’ tall and 12-18” wide.

Oenothera sp Evening Primrose- Yellow cup-shape flowers June–Sept. Very tolerant of hot sites and lean, dry soil. 12-36” tall and wide.

Penstemon Beard-Tongue- Spikes of tubular throated flowers June – August. Incredible color choices ranging from almost black, blue, purple, rose, pink or white. Needs excellent drainage.

Phlox- A large genus with plant from ranging from ground cover to 3’ cut flowers. Many varieties are fragrant. Flower color ranges from blue to bright pink. Best in rich moist soil. Blooms June – July.

Phygelius Cape Fuchsia- Spikes of tubular flowers in orange, pink and yellow tones July – Oct. Excellent container plants for the deck or patio. Size ranges 3-5’t/w

Physostegia Obedient Plant- Spikes of pink or white flowers in July – Sept. Useful as a background plant in the perennial border. Size ranges 18”-3’t/w.

Salvia Sage- Hummingbirds love sages with red, pink or dark blue flowers. Most sages are summer bloomers. Huge size range. *S. guaranitica* is a tall (3-5’) electric blue bloomer. *S. buchanii* is a tender sage with hot pink fuzzy flowers.

Scabiosa Pincushion Flower- Round flat quilled flowers bloom through the season. Dead heading will encourage blooms into fall. Size: 12-34”t/12-24”w.

Veronica- Upright varieties have long spikes in shades of blue, pink and white from early summer to first frost. Grows best in well-drained soil.



Shade perennials for hummingbirds

Fuchsia- Enjoy pendulous flowers and hummingbirds from early summer until hard frost. A variety of flower colors from white to orange, pink and purple. Best in part shade with moist soil. Huge size range from 2-7’ tall and wide.

Heuchera Coral Bells- *Heuchera* is most effective in the front of the perennial border, or in rockery. Delicate sprays of flowers and attractive leaves are best at close range. Wispy pink or white flowers bloom June – July.

Hosta Plantain lily- A large group of perennials that thrive in moist, well drained soil. Golden leaved and variegated varieties are generally more sun tolerant than green and blue leaved types. White or lavender trumpet shaped flowers in summer. Size varies from 12-36” tall and wide.

Establishing Hummingbird Perennials

The keys to successfully establishing perennials are conditioning the soil and regular watering. Before you put a plant in the ground, add compost to the planting area because our soil is often heavy clay. We recommend 1/3 compost to 2/3 existing soil. It is even important to amend on a sloped site to insure some water will get to the plant roots.

Water is especially important in the first season while the plants are settling in. We recommend watering new perennials at least once a week (as weather permits). Water slowly, for at least a three-eight hours, so it does not flow off. Soaker hoses are ideal for perennial gardens. In the heat of the summer, perennial beds may need more water.

When planting new perennials, mix in a little bone meal in the bottom of the hole. Water in with a fish and kelp mixture.

Mulching beds helps maintain soil moisture, and promotes healthy soil microbes. We recommend mulching with compost at least once a year in the Fall. In addition, the compost will provide food for the perennials as they emerge in the spring.

Compiled by Hiyori Saito

Hummingbird perennials

Hummingbirds

Perennials that attract hummingbirds



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