

Tips for Creating a Habitat for Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds

Plant Name	Height (ft)	Flower Color	Flowering Time	Sun
Canada Lily <i>Lilium canadense</i>	2-3	Orange	Jun-Aug	Full Sun
*Cardinal Flower <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	2-5	Red	July-Sept	Full to Shade
*Trumpet Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	8-15 Vine	Red, Pink, & Orange	May-June	Full to Shade
Dense Blazing Star <i>Liastris spicata</i>	2-4	Purple	July-Sept	Full Sun
*Eastern Red Columbine <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	1-3	Red & Yellow	Apr-May	Full to Shade
Great Blue Lobelia <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	1-3	Blue	July-Sept	Full to Shade
Pink Azelia <i>Rhod. periclymenoides</i>	4-10 Bush	White & Pink	Apr-May	Full to Partial
Eastern Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	15-30 Tree	Pink & Red	April	Full to Partial
*Scarlet Bee-balm <i>Monarda didyma</i>	2-5	Red	Jun-Aug	Full to Partial
Tuliptree <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	60-90 Tree	Yellow	May-June	Full Sun
*Wild Bergamont <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	2-5	Purple, White, & Pink	July-Sept	Full to Shade
Coral Bells <i>Heuchera Americana</i>	1-2	Green, Yellow, & Pink	June-Aug	Full to Shade
Woodland Phlox <i>Phlox divaricata</i>	1-2	Blue, Purple, White, & Pink	Apr-May	Full to Partial
Foxglove Bearstongue <i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	2-5	White	May-July	Full to Partial
*Trumpet Creeper <i>Campsis radicans</i>	35 Vine	Red, Orange, & Yellow	June-Sept	Full Sun
		*Primarily Pollinated by Hummingbirds		



Cardinal Flower

<https://www.finegardening.com/plant/cardinal-flower-lobelia-cardinalis>



Trumpet Creeper

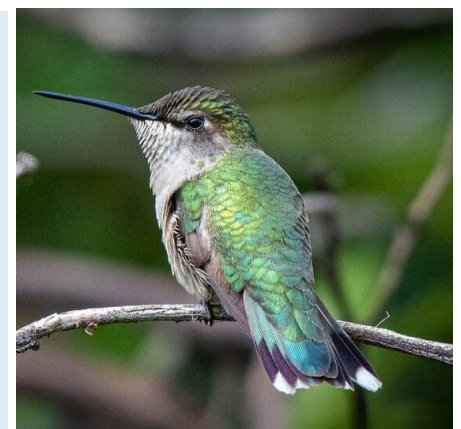
<https://www.greenwoodnursery.com/orange-trumpet-creeper>



Adult male Ruby-throated hummingbird.
Only the males have the bright red throat.

<https://macaulaylibrary.org/asset/97947051>

Ruby-throated hummingbirds, in North America have coevolved with native ornithophilous (flowers pollinated by birds) plants. Hummingbirds rely on their sight to find the right flowers. Most ornithophilous plants produce odorless, bright colored, and trumpet (tube) shaped flowers. Hummingbirds will feed on all tube shaped flowers but are most attracted to red and orange flowers. Create clusters of plants from the same species or bloom color, to attract hummingbirds. Gardens should have a variety of plants that flower from May to September to provide food all season long.



Adult female Ruby-throated hummingbird.

<https://macaulaylibrary.org/asset/97947051>

Plant Name	Height (ft)	Flower Color	Flowering Time	Sun
Foxglove <i>Digitalis Sp.</i>	2-5	White, Pink, Purple, & Yellow	May-July	Full to Partial
Fuchsia <i>Fuchsia Sp.</i>	1-3	Pink, Purple, White, & Red	May-Sept	Partial to Shade
Gladiolus <i>Gladiolus Sp.</i>	2-5	Various	July-Sept	Full Sun
Nasturtium <i>Tropaeolum Sp.</i>	1-3 Some Vine	Red, Orange, & Yellow	July-Sept	Full to Partial
Snapdragon <i>Antirrhinum Sp.</i>	1-3	Various	April-June	Full to Partial
Lilac <i>Syringa Sp.</i>	8-15 Shrub	Purple, White, & Pink	April-May	Full Sun
Salvia <i>Salvia Sp.</i>	<1-3	Blue, Purple, & Red	June-Sept	Full Sun
Lantana <i>Lantana camara</i>	1-3	Red, Orange, Pink, & Yellow	May-Oct	Full Sun
Delphinium <i>Delphinium Sp.</i>	3-6	Blue, Purple, Pink, & White	June-July	Full to Partial
Canna Lily <i>Canna Sp.</i>	3-6	Red, Orange, & Yellow	June-Sept	Full

Hummingbirds have adapted to feed on plants native to Eastern North America, so it is highly recommended that gardens are largely planted with natives. However, non-native plants add beauty to gardens and can provide food for hummingbirds. Do not rely on non-native plants to attract and feed hummingbirds, instead use them to add pops of color and flare.



Canna Lily

<https://seedsnpots.com/product/canna-lily-red-bulbs-president-red-canna-rhizomes-bulbs-roots-pack-1/>

Supplemental Nectar Feeders

Artificial feeders are another option to attract and feed ruby-throated hummingbirds if flowers are not in bloom. In the early spring they can be especially useful or when they are preparing for migration in the fall. They can also be helpful in enticing them over to a specific area in your yard for better viewing. Feeders should be red or orange to catch a passing hummingbirds attention.

Hummingbird feeders require high maintenance. The feeders should be emptied and cleaned out every other day. Especially when it is hot, the sugar water can ferment quickly, producing alcohol which is toxic. It should also be noted the sugar solution does not provide the essential nutrients found in plants. Stressing the importance of have a well planted garden.

To create the sugar water solution combine 1 part refined white sugar with 4 parts of boiling water until all the sugar has dissolve. Let the solution cool to room temperature before adding it to the feeder. Excess sugar solution can be stored in the fridge.



A female ruby-throated hummingbird feeding on a supplemental feeder

Photo by Dennis Church, <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1316/#:~:text=Although%20ruby%2Dthroated%20hummingbirds%20will,reference%20is%20red%20or%20orange.>

Attracting Ruby-throated Hummingbirds to Your Yard. Kathleen Kerwin & Brooke Maslo—Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Attracting Hummingbirds. Margaret Brittingham, Ph.D.—Penn State Cooperative Extension

How to Make Hummingbird Nectar. National Audubon Society—Audubon.org