



Feeding Hummingbirds:

Only one type of hummingbird visits our area—the ruby-throated hummingbird. One way to attract hummers is to put out hummingbird feeders in your yard. Feeders can be purchased any place you can buy bird seed—pet stores, specialty bird feeding stores, hardware stores, etc. Fill your hummingbird feeder with sugar water made by adding 4 parts water to 1 part white sugar (for example, one quarter cup of sugar stirred into one cup of water.) Tap or well water is preferred and distilled water is not recommended.

To make the sugar solution:

- Bring the water to boiling and remove from the stove. Then add the sugar, stir to dissolve and let the mixture cool.
- Sugar solution can be made ahead and kept up to a week in the refrigerator.
- *Discard any sugar solution that has turned cloudy or contains black mold, no matter how "fresh" the solution is. Thoroughly clean your feeder before refilling it with fresh sugar water.*

Only fill your feeders with enough sugar solution to last, at the most, two or three days. There is no sense in throwing most of the sugar water away when it goes bad before the hummingbirds drink all or most of it.

In our area, start feeding around April 1 and take your feeders down around October 1.

You can also landscape your yard with brightly colored, nectar-filled, tubular flowers attractive to hummingbirds. Common plants for our area include columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*), sage (*Salvia*), and bee balm (*Monarda*)

To “watch” the ruby-throated hummingbird migration, go to hummingbirds.net.

Enjoy!

