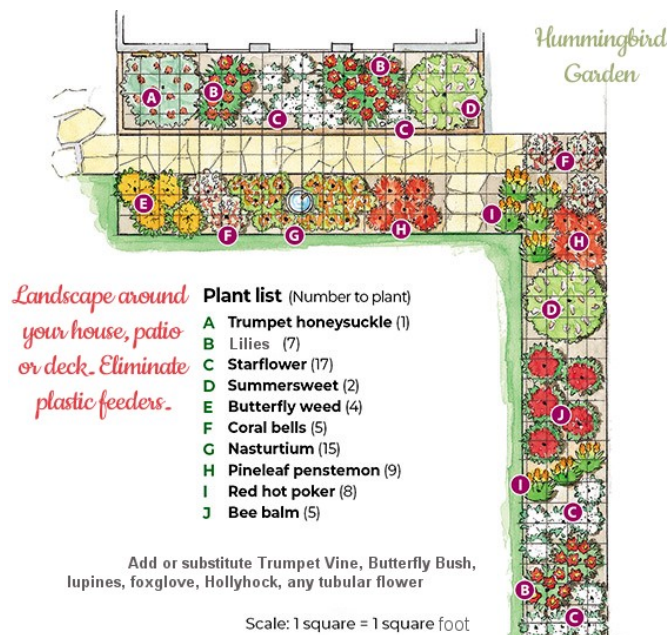


A Garden Full of Hummingbirds



By planting a garden filled with flowers that hummingbirds naturally feed upon,
You can toss out those hanging feeders filled with sugar water and zero nutrients.
These gather wasps, ants and mold, attract fewer, if any, birds, and need cleaning.



About the flowers

Choose flower colors to suit your tastes. Brighter colors attract the attention of the birds, but they'll follow the sweet scents of any color flowers.

Most of the hummingbird's favorite flowers have tubular-shaped blooms to poke their long beaks into, and very sweet fragrances. You get not only blooms and hummers each day, but aromatherapy, as well. These flowers attract other beneficial pollinators to the garden. Choose plants that produce nectar, and bloom together or in close succession to attract these little birds all season. They'll eat destructive insects, as well.

Bee Balm (Monarda)

Perennial. I grow several varieties of this tough plant, in different colors and heights, all over my gardens. Easy to grow and propagate, in-ground or in pots. A day-long magnet for hummingbirds, butterflies and bees. Tight clusters of flowers, and the leaves smell minty. Here are a few growing in my garden.

My gardens are well-pollinated because I grow this long-blooming plant. They can take heat and pollution, and are a great addition to a pollinator habitat. Not fussy about soil as long as it's well-draining and you keep it watered. They'll let you know when they're thirsty. The flowers start to dry on the stems. Cold hardy in Zones 4-9. Deadheading will assure repeat blooming all summer til fall.



Honeysuckle (Lonicera)

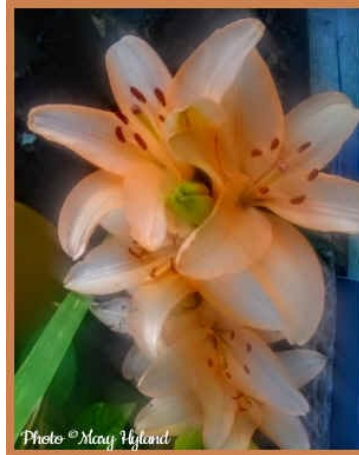
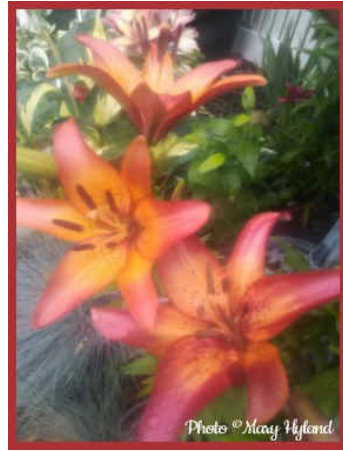
Very showy, delicate, long trumpet-shaped orange-red or yellow and white blooms in spring through summer. Red berries are attractive to all birds. Vining 6 to 20 ft. tall, 3 to 5 ft. wide (mine are at least 6 ft. wide and trellised). I grow these in pots and they trail along trellises, posts and fences. Full sun to part shade. Cold-hardy in USDA zones 4 to 9. Here are photos of some of my honeysuckles in flower. Hummingbirds seem to enjoy visiting just before dusk.



Lilies - The trumpet shapes attract Hummingbirds. Try "Orienpets" - a hybrid combination of oriental and trumpet lilies that are tall and are also called "tree lilies" they will also attract butterflies and other pollinators. There are border lilies, short enough for the front of borders, and many other taller sizes. They all look spectacular and smell amazing. They come in a huge palette of colors. To learn about and how to grow lilies, [check out this page](#). *Note: Daylilies are not true lilies.*

Here are some varieties growing in several areas of my landscape.





Starflower

Type - Annual below zone 10. Star-shaped blooms from summer to frost Size 12 to 22 in. tall, 10 to 18 in. wide. Full sun, moist, well-drained soil; very heat-tolerant. Comes in several colors.



Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia* 'Ruby Spice')

Shrub. Very fragrant pink and raspberry-colored blooms from summer til early fall. Foliage turns yellow in fall. 3 to 6 ft. tall. 3 to 5 ft. wide Full sun to part shade.

Nasturtiums

Annual.

Oranges and yellows. Blooms from late spring til frost, medium green foliage. 10 to 12 in. tall and wide. Full sun to part shade

Does best in poor, infertile soil. Blossoms are tasty sprinkled in salads and it repels bad insects in the garden.



Penstemon

Perennial. Tubular flowers, available in several colors, bloom from late spring to summer; reseeds, so flowers if you don't want seedlings 12 to 15 in. tall, 15 to 18 in. wide Full sun to part shade. Well-drained soil and regular moisture. Cold hardy in USDA zones 4 to 9



Red Hot Poker (*Kniphofia*)

Perennial.

Spikes bloom early to midsummer. Cut faded flowers to encourage rebloom. 30 to 36 in. tall, 15 to 18 in. wide. Full sun to part shade Rich, well-drained soil. Cold hardy in USDA zones 5 to 9.



A Little About These Delicate Little Birds

Hummingbirds are an American bird species, found nowhere else in the world.

Growing the plants they love will give them natural food and nutrients. Using hummingbird feeders does not. Feeders may look pretty, but most times, they are ineffective, attract wasps, ants, fungus, bacteria and mildew. This can actually make hummingbirds sick. There's no need for these feeders. Retire them or toss them out.

The idea that a red color attracting them is a myth and has been debunked. It can be any bright color or no color, just as in their favorite flowers - Hummingbirds ultimately follow the scent.

If you decide to keep feeders in addition to plant attractants, be religious in your commitment to keep them clean, and keep the homemade nectar fresh. To do otherwise will eventually sicken or kill the birds.

They are attracted to a very large list of plants not mentioned in the design plan. Here they are as the long list of choices for your gardens:

*** Indicates invasive if not controlled by pruning, removing shoots, or contained in pots.**

Peruvian Lily	Delphinium	Coral Bells
Virginia Bluebells	Bleeding Heart	Red Hot Poker
Bee Balm	Foxglove	Liatis
Hyssop	Gooseberry	Cardinal Flower
Hollyhock	Lilac	Phlox
Columbine	Viburnum	Obedient Plant
*Butterfly Weed	Mimosa	*Raspberry - spreads by shoots
*Milkweed	Currant	*Trumpet Vine
Penstemon	Snowberry	*Trumpet Creeper
Snapdragon	*Lantana	*Four-O'Clocks
Canna	Tulip Tree	*Morning Glory
Fuchsia	Crabapple	Zinnia
Gladiola	Black Locust	Flowering Quince
Impatiens	Clematis Vine - I grow these in large pots to avoid	Nasturtium
Pentas	too much spreading	Witch Hazel
Sage	Beauty Bush	Butterfly Bush
Salvia	Honeysuckle	Rose of Sharon
Comfrey	Rhododendron	Giant Hibiscus
Mexican Sunflower	Abelia	*Buddleia (considered invasive in some regions.)
Azalea	Summersweet	*Buttonbush
Daylily		

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