



Backyard Wildlife



WILDLIFE HABITAT NOTES: Hummingbird Plants

Nectar is the principle food of the ruby-throated hummingbird. Hummingbirds will also drink tree sap and pluck an occasional insect from a leaf. By using a diversity of nectar-producing plants, this important food source can be made available to nesting hummers from spring through fall. Flowers with trumpet or tubular shapes in the red color range seem to be most attractive and accessible to hummingbirds, but they will also visit white and blue flowers so don't necessarily limit your garden to red. Trees, shrubs, vines and herbaceous plants most attractive to hummingbirds are listed below along with some comments on flower color, blooming period, plant height and sun and soil preferences. The native species often produce more nutritious nectar, so always make natives the backbone of your plantings.

Common Name	Flower Botanical Name	Flower Color	Plant Season	Height Comments
<i>Native Perennial Wildflowers</i>				
Beardtongue, smooth	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	white	summer	4 ft. avg-dry
Beardtongue, hairy	<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	blue	spring	1-3 ft. shade/pt.sun
Bee balm	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	red	summer	3 ft. avg.-moist
Blazing star	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	purple	summer	3-5 ft. avg.-dry
Blazing star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	purple	summer	4-6 ft. dry
Blue sage	<i>Salvia Azurea</i>	blue	fall	3-5 ft. dry
Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	red	sum-fall	3-4 ft. avg.-moist
Fire pink	<i>Silene virginica</i>	red	spring	1-3 ft. shade
Jewelweed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	orange	sum-fall	3-5 ft. moist-wet
Obedient plant	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	pink	sum-fall	2-4 ft. avg.-dry
Phlox, tall	<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	pink	sum-fall	3-5 ft. sun or shade
Phlox, wild blue	<i>Phlox divericata</i>	blue	spring	1 ft. shade, fragrant
Rose mallow	<i>Hibiscus moscheustos</i>	white	summer	3-6 ft. moist-wet
Royal catchfly	<i>Silene regia</i>	red	summer	3-5 ft. avg.-dry
Wild bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	pink	summer	3-4 ft. avg.-dry
Wild columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	red/yel	spr-sum	1-3 ft. shade/pt.sun

Annuals and Non-Native Perennials

Canna	<i>Canna spp.</i>	red	summer	3-5 ft. sun
Coralbell	<i>Heuchera spp.</i>	red	summer	1-2 ft. shade
Dahlia	<i>Dahlia spp.</i>	varies	summer	2-4 ft. sun, annual
Flowering tobacco	<i>Nicotiana spp.</i>	orange	summer	1-3 ft. sun, annual
Fushia	<i>Fuschia spp.</i>	varies	spring	1-2 ft. heat sensitive
Geranium	<i>Geranium spp.</i>	red/pink	summer	1-2 ft. sun, annual

Common Name	Flower Botanical Name	Flower Color	Plant Season	Height Comments
Larkspur	<i>Delphinium spp.</i>	blue	summer	2-4 ft. sun, annual
Nasturtium	<i>Nasturtium spp.</i>	varies	summer	2-3 ft. sun, annual
Petunia	<i>Petunia spp.</i>	varies	spr-fall	<1 ft. sun
Salvia	<i>Salvia spp.</i>	red	summer	1-3 ft. sun, annual
Scarlet sage	<i>Salvia coccinea</i>	red	summer	2-4 ft. sun, annual

Trees, Shrubs and Vines

Azalea	<i>Rhododendron spp.</i>	varies	spr-sum	4-20 ft. acidic soil
Beauty bush	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	white	spring	4-6 ft. berries
Buckeye, dwarf red	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	red	spring	45 ft. slow
Corralberry	<i>Symphoricarpos</i>	green	summer	3 ft. berries fall
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crusgalli</i>	white	spring	30 ft. berries
Lilacs	<i>Syringia spp.</i>	varies	spring	5-10 ft. not native
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron spp.</i>	varies	spr-sum	6-30 ft. evergreen
Trumpet creeper	<i>Campsis radicans</i>	orange	summer	vine climbing
Trumpet honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sempervirens*</i>	red/yel.	summer	vine climbing
Tulip poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	grn/yel.	spring	80 ft. fast growing
Weigela	<i>Weigela spp.</i>	varies	spr-sum.	3-6 ft. not native

*Most species of honeysuckles are used by hummingbirds but please keep in mind that all of the non-native ones are extremely invasive and damaging to natural habitats.

