Hummingbird Gardening – Tips for Success

Gardening for hummingbirds is a simple, enjoyable way to help these birds survive their summer and fall migrations. Hummingbird flowers are beautiful and the birds are lots of fun to watch.
2: Hummingbirds are native to the Americas and feed on specially adapted flowers that are generally:
- red, pink or orange
- tubular
- held outward for hover feeding
- rich in nectar

3: Four Common North American Hummingbirds
Though dozens of hummingbird species may venture into North America in the summer. These four hummers are most commonly seen in gardens.

4: Anna’s Hummingbird (coastal southwestern US, male shown)

5: Black-chinned Hummingbird (southwestern US, male shown)

6: Ruby Throated Hummingbird (eastern US, male shown)
7: Rufous Hummingbird (western US, male shown)

8: Nesting
Hummingbird nests are tiny, softened with lichen and moss, and created high in tree branches. They typically hold a clutch of 1-3 eggs. It takes nestlings about one month to develop from...

9: ...Incubation to fledging. Nesting most often occurs in summer when food is most plentiful. Nests are often 1 to 2 inches across.

10: Migration
All hummingbirds fly south to the warmer parts of the Americans as fall approaches. This is when it is most vital to provide them food.

11: Hummingbirds may migrate thousands of miles!

12: Easy Hummingbird Flowers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Flower Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>#1 Salvia</td>
<td>Garden salvia flowers are some of the best for feeding hungry hummers—whether their blooms be red, orange, white or even blue. [Salvia 'Wendy's Wish']</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>#2 Fuchsia</td>
<td>Even the most elaborate fuchsia flower will bring hummingbirds to your garden. Plant them in hanging baskets across your porch and watch the show!  [Fuchsia hybrid]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>#3 Native Honeysuckles</td>
<td>Hummers love the nectar of native honeysuckles, particularly the red trumpet honeysuckle. The beautiful tubular flowers of these perennial vines bloom in summer. [Trumpet honeysuckle, Lonicera sempervirens]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>#4 Hummingbird Mint</td>
<td>Hummingbird mints, also called agastache, are much loved by hummers. Their flowers of red, orange, purple, or pink are sure to bring hummers to your garden!  [Texas Hummingbird Mint, Agastache cana]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>#5 Cannas</td>
<td>Cannas are easy, bold summer garden flowers that also attract hummingbirds. Red-flowered forms are most popular.  [Canna species]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>#6 Red Monarda</td>
<td>The summer blooms of red monarda are colorful easy, and always visited by hummingbirds.  [Red Monarda, Monarda didyma]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
19: #7 Penstemon
The tubular blooms of penstemons may be red, pink, purple, orange, or yellow and are loved by hummers. Many penstemons are also drought tolerant! [Penstemon hybrid]

20: Flowers over Feeders
Even though hummingbirds like feeders, flowers provide better food and nutrition to these birds. This year, try planting a garden for hummers, and put the feeder away.

21: Feeders also attract wasps and yellow jackets!

22: Potted Hummingbird Flowers
Potted hummingbird flowers, like this hanging fuchsia, are best grown in a rich, water-holding mix like Black Gold Waterhold Potting Mix, which is OMRI Listed for organic gardening.

23: Be sure to keep potted plants well irrigated during hot summer months!

24: Garden Hummingbird Flowers
Hummingbird flowers for the garden, like this pineapple sage, will perform better in ground fortified with OMRI Listed Black Gold Compost Mix.
25: Hummingbird Garden Rewards
Once you have a garden full of hummingbird favorites, they will eventually discover it and return to your hummingbird haven year after year.

26: Happy hummingbird gardening!

Visit blackgold.bz

Learn more and discover expert how-to gardening videos, articles, exciting monthly garden giveaways and our $3.00 rebate.