

Bring Hummingbirds to your Ohio yard



Ruby Throated Hummingbird
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What's that humming sound? If you have the right plants, it could be the wings of a Ruby-throated hummingbird in your yard !

Description

Tiny (3 ½") with needle-like bill. Metallic green above, white below; male has brilliant, iridescent red throat. female & Immature male lacks red throat.

Habitat

Suburban gardens, parks, and woodlands

Food

Insects and nectar from plants.

Water

Spray mister 10-12 feet from cover (small tree); **Cup-Plant**, *Silphium perfoliatum*, is a natural water option.

Annuals (not native)

- Bright-color flowers (scarlet to orange and purple) are hummingbird favorites
- Scarlet sage, *Salvia splendens*
- Impatiens, *Impatiens wallerana*
- Fuschia, *fuschia x hybrida*
- Snapdragon, *Antirrhinum majus*
- Annual phlox, *phlox drummondii*
- Common zinnia, *Zinni elegans*
- Petunia, *Petunia hybrids*

Tip: Hang baskets where you can see them

Sources:

National Wildlife Federation, www.nwf.org;
www.enature.com

OSU Franklin Co. Extension, <http://ohioline.osu.edu/b865>
Sally Roth, Attracting Butterflies and Hummingbirds

Ohio Native Plants

“home-grown” hummingbird food

Perennial Wildflowers

- **Wild Columbine**, *Aquilegia canadensis*, 1-3', spring, red flowers, re-seeds itself
- **Foxglove/Smooth Penstemon**, *Penstemon digitalis/calycosis*, 2-3', June, purple/white-lavender, full-part sun/woodland species
- **Cardinal Flower**, *Lobelia cardinalis*, 1-3', July-Aug, tubular-shaped flowers are red
- **Great Blue Lobelia**, *Lobelia siphilitica*, 1-3', Aug-Sept, blue flower spikes, needs well-drained soils, more hardy than cardinalis
- **Cup-Plant**, *Silphium perfoliatum*, 6-12', yellow, Tall, adaptable, leaves hold rainwater for hummingbirds
- **Cinnamon Fern**, *Osmunda cinnamomea*, 3-4', shade

Vines and Groundcover

- **Trumpet (or Scarlet or Coral) Honeysuckle**, *Lonicera sempervirens*, 10-20', Spring, Train-able vine with showy trumpet-like red flowers
- **Trumpet Creeper**, *Campsis radicans*, 30-40', Aggressive vine with orange-red flowers

Small Trees / Shrubs (15'-49')

- **Downy Serviceberry (Juneberry)**, *Amelanchier arborea*, 15-25', Tolerates sun or shade and wet soils; red berries, white flower
- **Eastern Redbud**, *Cercis canadensis*, 20-30', full sun or light shade, pink spring flower
- **Hop Tree (Wafer-Ash)**, *Ptelea trifoliata*, 15-20', Red-brown twigs, fragrant flowers
- **Washington Hawthorn**, *Crataegus phaenopyrum*, 25-35', Has 1-3" thorns, white spring flowers and red fruits

Tall Trees (50'-100'+)

- **Tuliptree**, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, 70-90', Fast grower; fertile soil, yellow-orange flower
- **Wild Black Cherry**, *Prunus serotina*, 50-60', variety of soils, white flower

Tip: Reduce or eliminate chemical pesticides which poison insects the hummingbird eats