



## Interesting Facts!!

- Most hummingbirds found in Ontario are of the Ruby-throated variety—the only species that breeds in Eastern Canada.
- The Ruby-throated hummingbird is one of the smallest in all of North America.
- Hummingbirds are the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest family of birds in the world, with approximately 330 species.
- You can see thousands of Ruby-throated hummingbirds every year migrating past Southern Ontario Hawk Watch locations.
- Hummingbirds can fly in any direction—even backwards!

*“A flash of harmless lightning, A mist of rainbow dyes, The burnished sunbeams brightening  
From flower to flower he flies.”*

*~John Banister Tabb*



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*The information in this brochure was compiled from a  
number of public sources.*



## Your Hummingbird Gardening Guide

**HOW TO MAKE YOUR YARD  
HUMMINGBIRD-FRIENDLY**

**SILVERHILL INSTITUTE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND  
CONSERVATION**

# Your Hummingbird Gardening Guide

## Hummingbird Attractors

### FEED

- Hummingbirds love brightly coloured tubular flowers, with a special propensity towards red. You can grow these in hanging baskets.
- Grow native plants that attract insects and spiders, avoiding the use of pesticides.
- You may make or purchase artificial feeders and make your own feed with sugar and water (don't use honey).
- Feeders can be put out from March to October, within 15-20 ft of the nearest shelter (trees, shrubs, vines) or near other flowers in your yard.
- Be sure to keep feeder in a safe location for hummingbirds and to clean regularly, example, near a tree or shrub for shade.

### WATER

- Planting large-leaf native trees and shrubs (maples, tulip trees, basswood) that can hold water will encourage hummingbirds to bathe and preen.

### SHELTER

- Shelter from the elements (strong wind, rain, cold, hot sun) and predators.
- Having trees like pine, spruce, maple and oak nearby will protect and encourage hummingbirds.
- Hummingbirds use plant down for the inside of nests (milkweed, thistle, cattail, willow and fireweed down, animal hair).
- In between feeds, hummingbirds enjoy resting and preening on perches such as slender poles, clotheslines, thin vines, trellises, wires. Many levels of shrubbery will be a big attractor.



### NATIVE SPECIES

There are dozens of hummingbird-attracting plants out there. Here are a few examples:

Species	Season	Native Province
Eastern red columbine	spring to early summer	Sask., Man., Ont., Que., N.S., N.B.
Spotted touch me not, jewelweed	mid summer to mid fall	Sask., Ont., N.B., N.S., P.E.I., N.L.
Swamp rose mallow	late summer	Ontario
Prairie dock	summer	Ontario
Red bergamot	summer	Ont., Que., N.B.
Great blue lobelia	late summer to early fall	Manitoba and Ontario
Cardinal flower	summer to early fall	Man., Ont., Que., N.B.

### MORE NATIVE SPECIES

Species	Season	Native Province
Trumpet vine	summer	sOnt.
Trumpet creeper	summer	Ontario
Giant hyssop	summer	B.C., Alta., Sask., Man., Ont.
Fireweed	summer	All
Rough blazingstar	late summer to early fall	Ontario
Wood lily	summer	B.C., Alta., Sask., Man., Ont., Que, N.W.T.
Flowering dogwood	spring	southern Ont.
Virginia Bluebell	spring	sOnt. and swQue
White beardtongue	late spring to summer	Ont., Que., N.B., N.S.

**KEY**  
s= southern  
sw= southwestern