

and sport many flowers but only produce small amounts of nectar for hummingbirds.

Consider the bloom periods of the plant material and ensure that something is blooming sequentially throughout the growing season in a garden space. It is important to ensure the flowers of choice are visible and easily accessible for the birds.

They do not have any sense of smell and find flowers strictly by sight.

Other site amenities

Hummingbirds do spend a great deal of time sitting upon perches especially after a feeding frenzy.

Consider situating shrubs or small trees nearby flower patches that provide a safe place to take a little rest.

Most birds love an opportunity to grab a drink and give their feathers a rinse and hummingbirds are no different.

Adding a bubbler or mister in the garden area will add appeal for many bird species including hummingbirds. Besides, who doesn't want a better look at these feathered beauties, so give them a reason to hang around a little longer and add a few extra features.

Perennial selection

In Ontario we have some excellent options of flowering perennials to pick from that hummingbirds enjoy.

For an early blooming species, wild columbine is a great addition to any garden. Since hummingbirds migrate south as early as August they only need flowers that bloom through the summer months. The magnificent cardinal flower is a red stunner that will keep hummingbirds busy, while the Joe Pye weed is a functional nectar source. A classic favourite for hummingbirds are species from the monarda family – both the bee balm and wild bergamot are beautiful fueling stations.

Getting started

The spring is a great time to get started! Consider your garden space and see how you can incorporate healthy, native food for the wonderful Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Although the mystery of perfect gardening satisfaction may be harder to uncover than originally suggested, a summer with more hummingbirds around is a close second. Happy planting!



The magnificent cardinal flower (left) will keep hummingbirds busy. A favorite for hummingbirds are species from the monarda family – both the bee balm and wild bergamot (right) are beautiful fueling stations.

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