

Attracting Hummingbirds

Here at Orchard, we're very attached to the little hummers that zoom around the nursery and help themselves to our flowers and feeders. Six species of hummingbirds are frequently seen in our area: Costa's, Anna's, Calliope, Allen's, Rufous and Black-chinned. To sustain their supercharged metabolisms, hummingbirds must eat once every 10 to 15 minutes and visit between 1,000 and 2,000 flowers per day! Here's how to entice them into your yard.



Plant a Variety of Hummingbird Favorites

Trees

Botanical Name	Common Name
Albizia julibrissin	Silk Tree, Mimosa
Arbutus	Strawberry Tree
Cercis	Redbud
Chilopsis linearis	Desert Willow
Citrus	Citrus
Crataegus	Hawthorne
Malus	Flowering Crabapple

Shrubs

Botanical Name	Common Name
Abelia grandiflora	Abelia
Abutilon	Flowering Maple
Arctostaphylos	Manzanita
Azalea	Azalea
Buddleia davidii	Butterfly Bush
Callistemon	Bottlebrush
Chaenomeles	Flowering Quince
Correa	Australian Fuchsia
Grevillea	Grevillea
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon
Hibiscus	Hibiscus
Lantana	Lantana
Lavandula	Lavender
Ribes	Flowering Currant
Tecomaria capensis	Cape Honeysuckle
Weigela	Weigela

Perennials & Bulbs

Botanical Name	Common Name
Agastache	Anise Hyssop
Ajuga	Carpet Bugle
Alstroemeria	Peruvian Lily
Aquilegia	Columbine
Asclepias	Butterfly Weed
Calibrachoa	Million Bells
Canna	Canna Lily
Crocsmia	Montbretia
Delphinium	Delphinium
Dicentra	Bleeding Heart
Echium fastuosum	Pride of Madeira
Epilobium (Zauschneria)	California Fuchsia
Fuchsia	Fuchsia
Gladiolus	Gladiolus
Helleborus	Hellebore
Heuchera	Coral Bells
Hosta	Plantain Lily
Kniphofia	Red-Hot Poker
Leonotis leonurus	Lion's Tail
Lepechinia hastata	Pitcher Sage
Liatris	Blazing Star
Lilium	Lily
Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal Flower
Lupinus	Lupine
Mimulus	Monkey Flower
Monarda	Beebalm
Pelargonium	Geranium
Penstemon	Beardtongue
Phlomis fruticosa	Jerusalem Sage
Phygelius	Cape Fuchsia
Salvia	Sage
Veronica spicata	Speedwell
Verbena	Vervain

Vines

Botanical Name Common Name

Campsis radicans	Trumpet Creeper
Distictus buccinatoria	Blood-Red Trumpet Vine
Ipomoea	Morning Glory
Lonicera	Honeysuckle
Mina Lobata	Spanish Flag
Passiflora	Passion Vine
Phaseolus coccineus	Scarlet Runner Bean

Impatiens	Impatiens
Nicotiana	Flowering Tobacco
Petunia	Petunia
Tropaeolum majus	Nasturtium
Zinnia	Zinnia

Succulents

Botanical Name Common Name

Aloe	Aloe
Beschorneria	Mexican Lily
Dudleya	Chalk Lettuce
Echeveria	Hens & Chicks
Gasteria	Gasteria
Hesperaloe parviflora	Red Yucca
Lewisia	Cliff Maidens
Opuntia	Prickly Pear
Sedum	Stonecrop
Sempervivum	House Leek

Annuals & Biennials

Botanical Name Common Name

Begonia	Begonia
Cerithe	Honeywort
Clarkia	Clarkia
Cleome	Spider Flower
Digitalis	Foxglove

Provide Feeders for Year-Round Residents

Anna's hummingbirds live in the Bay Area year-round, so provide feeders for when flowers are in short supply.

- To reduce competition, hang several feeders far enough apart that the hummingbirds can't see each other.
- Fill the feeders with commercial hummingbird nectar or make your own nectar; For each cup of water, use ¼ cup of white granulated sugar. Combine in a saucepan and bring to boil. Cool before filling feeders. Never use honey or artificial sweeteners.
- Hang your feeders in the shade to prevent the nectar from fermenting.
- Be sure to clean feeders and change the nectar regularly, once or twice weekly.

Give Hummers Water to Bathe

Hummingbirds love to fly through sprinklers and running water from fountains. They are especially attracted to misters, which can be attached to regular garden hoses.

Tolerate Some Bugs

Hummingbirds need to eat tiny insects as a protein source, and they use spider webs to construct their stretchy nests.

- Eliminate pesticides or use as infrequently as possible.
- Make sure your yard contains insect-pollinated flowers as well as hummingbird-pollinated plants.
- Leave some cobwebs.