

Attracting Hummingbirds to your yard

A homemade hummingbird feeder is a great start at attracting these birds to your yard. But if you would like to expand your efforts and attract even more hummingbirds to your backyard try adding a few of these suggested plants to your landscape:

Wild columbine

Lupines

Butterfly Weed

Foxgloves

Indian paintbrush

Annual phlox

Bee Balm

Butterfly Bush

Cardinal Flower

Swamp Milkweed

Trumpet Vine

Common Snapdragon



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Homemade Hummingbird Feeders



How to reuse an old two liter bottle to create a backyard hummingbird feeder.

What you will need

One empty, clean two liter bottle
Red acrylic paint
Heavy-gauge wire
Stopper tube (from a small animal water bottle)
Sugar
Water

Getting Started

1. Paint the exterior of your two liter bottle with many coats of red acrylic paint.
2. With the bottle upside down, secure one end of heavy gauge wire around the midsection of the bottle. Bend the other end up the side of the bottle, creating a hook on the end from which you can hang your feeder on a branch.
3. Fill your feeder using the recipe on the following page.
4. Insert the rubber stopper and tube into the opening of the bottle. Make sure to buy a stopper with a tube that is bent near a 90 degree angle, or that is flexible and can be bent to such an angle.



Making Nectar

There are many manufactured nectar powders on the market you can purchase. However, using this simple recipe, it is almost as easy and much more affordable to simply make your own.

Add one part sugar for every four parts water. Stir and bring the mixture to a boil. Let cool, fill feeder and store leftovers in the refrigerator.



Important Hints

1. Do not add red dye or food coloring to your nectar. Do not purchase nectar with red dye already in it. This is harmful to the birds.
2. Keep your feeder clean. Change the nectar every 3-5 days.
3. Hang your feeder no farther than 15 feet away from the nearest shelter.
4. To prevent collisions, hang your feeder at least 15 feet away from windows.
5. If your having a hard time keeping your bottle in the wire hoop try adding a second hoop to attach to the stopper tube. Simply run one end of the wire under the loop and bend it over itself. Run the length of the wire down to the tube and create a loop around it for support.