



Hummingbird Haven

Backyard Habitat for Wildlife

From April through October, if you look carefully you may find a small flying jewel in your backyard. The Hummingbird can be found flitting over bright flowers, zipping through a garden or maneuvering around your porch. Inquisitive by nature, these birds will come close enough to investigate a bright blouse or shiny jewelry. The hummingbird, like many other species of wildlife, is plagued by loss of habitat. However, through certain backyard management practices, you can help this beautiful bird find the food it needs.



hummingbird's wings beat 2.7 million times as it flies nonstop across the Gulf of Mexico from the United States to Mexico. With a strong headwind, the flight takes ten hours. The Ruby-Throat is the only hummingbird known to nest in Georgia.

Hummingbird Garden

Landscape a portion of your yard to specifically provide food for Hummingbirds. Start with a sketch of how you want your yard to look when you finish planting your hummingbird garden. Variety is the key to a successful habitat so plan several different levels of vegetation.

Sun and Shade

It is important to have both sun and shade for a variety of flowers. You will need to plan for tall and medium size trees, shrubs and flowers.

Types of Flowers

Choose flowers from the list on the back, known as "hummingbird flowers." You will need to plant shrubs and flowers that will bloom at different times of the year for a constant variety of food. Some plants also attract insects which supplement a hummingbird's diet. Plan several different areas of flowers to decrease competition among hummers.

Perching Needs

The hummingbird spends about 60 percent of the day perching in order to survey the surrounding area and to rest. Medium to tall trees provide good perching areas. Plant plenty of flowers around the trees so the hummer will adopt the area as its territory.

Nesting Place

Hummingbird nests are very small and consist of lichens, spider silk and soft plant fibers. Most of these are found in the garden area.

Water Works

Most of the liquid a hummingbird requires comes from nectar, however they do need water to "bathe."

Hummingbird Facts

Hummingbirds are Georgia's smallest bird, measuring only 3 1/2". They feed five to eight times per hour. An average hummingbird consumes half its weight in sugar a day. They are equipped with long, needle-like bills and the ability to hover. Their colors are brilliant and iridescent which adds wonder to their spectacular flying maneuvers. Hummers average 35 m.p.h. during flight, but are capable of flying upwards at 75 m.p.h. A

Hummingbird Flowers¹

<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Bloom time</u>
Herbaceous Plants			
Bee Balm	2-3'	W, P, R, L	summer
Blazing Star	2-6'	L	summer & fall
Butterfly-Weed	1-2'	O	summer
Canna	2-7'	-B	summer & fall
Cardinal Flower	2-4'	R	summer
Columbine	2-3'	all	spring & summer
Coral Bells	6-12"	W, P, R	spring
Flowering Tobacco	1-3'	-B	summer
Four o'clock	1-3'	-B	summer
Foxglove	2-6'	W, P, Y, L	spring
Fuchsia	1-3'	W, P, L, R	spring—fall
Hollyhock	4-8'	-B	spring
Lily	2-6'	-B	varies with species
Penstemon	1-2'	P, R	summer
Petunia	1-2'	all	summer & fall
Phlox	1-3'	all	varies with species
Salvia	1-5'	R, B, W, L	varies with species
Sweet William	1-2'	W, P, R, L	spring
Verbena	3-6"	all	spring—fall
Zinnia	6-36"	-B	summer
Shrubs			
Abelia	2-6'	W, P	summer
Azalea	1-8'	all	spring
Hibiscus	5-10'	all	summer & fall
Weigela	6-10'	P, R	spring
Vines			
Cypress-Vine	-	R, W	summer & fall
Morning Glory	-	all	summer & fall
Scarlet Runner-Bean	-	R, W	summer
Trumpet Creeper	-	R, O	summer
Trumpet Honeysuckle	-	R, Y	spring
Wisteria	-	W, L	spring

Colors: P=pink, Y=yellow, O=orange, L=lavender, B=blue, W=white, --absence of a single color

1: Information provided by Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Non-Game Wildlife Program