






HUMMINGBIRD GARDENING FOR WISCONSIN GARDENERS USING NATIVE PLANTS







"The hummingbird is seen to stop thus some instants before a flower, and dart off like a gleam to another; it visits them all, plunging its little tongue into their bosom, caressing them with its wings, without ever settling, but at the same time ever quitting them." W.C.L. Martin, General History of Hummingbirds, Circa 1840.

KEY ELEMENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL HUMMINGBIRD GARDEN

-  A "Wildscape" Filled With Native Plants Loved By Hummingbirds With Something in Bloom All Season Long!
-  Well-Maintained Hummingbird Feeders from April through October (with no instant nectar or red food coloring)
-  Cover, Perching & Preening Spots (trees & shrubs with dense, tiny branches for perching, shepherd's hooks, tree snags, brush piles)
-  Inclusion of Water Feature---water should be very shallow and feature should include waterfall and dripper and/or misting device to keep water moving and fresh
-  Use of Hummingbird Beacons (red ribbons, metallic streamers, gazing ball, or any red object near feeders and flowers, especially in early spring!)

NATIVE HUMMINGBIRD GARDENING & WILDSCAPING TIPS

-  Plant Red or Orange Tubular Flowers with no fragrance (although some flowers of other colors can also be highly attractive to hummingbirds)
-  Use Native Plants, Wildflowers & Single Flowers
-  Plants with Many Small Blossoms Pointing Sideways or Down
-  Use Plants With Long Bloom Period
-  Use Plants that Bloom Profusely During August & September

- 🐦 Create Mass Plantings (not just a single plant) of Flowers that are Hummingbird Favorites
- 🐦 Eliminate or Greatly Decrease the Use of Turf Grass to Create a Natural Hummingbird and Wild Bird Habitat (native groundcovers can be used in place of turf grass if desired)
- 🐦 Use Natural and/or Organic Mulches (Pine Needles, Leaves, Bark) Whenever Possible
- 🐦 Height of Plants should be Tall, not Short (or utilize hanging baskets or large containers for shorter plants)---remember, hummingbirds are birds of the air and not the ground.
- 🐦 All Plants Should Bloom During the Day---Hummingbirds Are Not Active During the Evening
- 🐦 Garden Organically and Eliminate the Use of Pesticides and Herbicides (Pesticides may kill or harm hummingbirds and destroy the small insects they need to eat for survival)
- 🐦 Create Areas of Sun, Partial Shade, and Shade and Utilize Rain Gardens to Maximize the Use of a Wide Range of Hummingbird Favorite Plants.
- 🐦 Make Generous Use of Well Maintained Hummingbird Feeders During Late August, September and Early October as Not Many Native Plants for Hummingbirds are Blooming Then (you will see the most hummingbirds during this Fall migration period, as the adults are joined by the newly fledged birds and all are eagerly feeding for their long journey.)
- 🐦 Start Small and Expand as Your Energy, Time, and Resources Allow
- 🐦 Place Feeders & Flowers Where You Can See & Enjoy Them From Your Home!



HUMMINGBIRD FAVORITE WISCONSIN NATIVE PLANTS

Spring/Early Summer

- ✓ **COLUMBINE (*AQUILEGIA CANADENSIS*)** *Short Lived Perennial (Full Sun to Part Shade in Well-Drained Soil)---Hummingbird Pollinated*
- ✓ **FIRE PINK (*SILENE VIRGINICA*)** *Perennial (Partial Shade in Well Drained Soil)*
- ✓ **SOLOMON'S SEAL (*POLYGONATUM CANALICULATUM*)** *Perennial (Shade to Partial Shade in Average Soil---very early spring bloom)*

- ✓ VIRGINIA BLUEBELLS (*MERTENSIA VIRGINICA*) Perennial (Partial to Full Shade in Average Soil)

Summer

- ✓ ROYAL CATCHFLY (*SILENE REGIA*) Perennial----Hummingbird Pollinated (Full Sun to Partial Shade in Average Soils)
- ✓ CANADIAN MILK VETCH (*ASTRAGULUS CANADENSIS*) Perennial---Hummingbird Pollinated (Full Sun to Partial Shade in Moist, Rich Soil---will reseed where happy)
- ✓ MONARDA FISTULOSA (*WILD BERGAMOT*) Perennial---Hummingbird Pollinated (Full Sun to Partial Shade in Moist Soil)
- ✓ SCROPHULARIA MARILANDICA (*LATE FIGWORT*) Perennial---Hummingbird Pollinated (Partial Shade with Average Water---Can be Invasive and Flowers Are Not Showy, But Wonderful for Hummingbirds and Bees)
- ✓ LILIUM PHILADELPHICUM & SUPERBUM (*MICHIGAN LILY AND TURK'S CAP LILY*) Perennial (Moist Soils in Full Sun)
- ✓ LIATRIS VARIETIES (*BLAZING STAR*) Perennial (Full Sun to Partial Shade in Average Soil)
- ✓ RED CARDINAL FLOWER (*LOBELIA CARDINALIS*) perennial (Moist, Rich Soils with Morning Sun)---Hummingbird Pollinated
- ✓ SPOTTED JEWELWEED (*IMPATIENS CAPENSIS*) reseeding annual ---Hummingbird Pollinated (any light exposure or soil type---Unwanted plants can be easily removed.)
- ✓ SILPHIUM PERFOLIATUM (*CUP PLANT*) Perennial (Full Sun in Any Soil Type, but can tolerate wet soils)
- ✓ CAMPANULA ROTUNDIFOLIA (*HAREBELL*)/CAMPANULA AMERICANA (*TALL BELLFLOWER*) Perennials (Full Sun to Partial Shade in Well Drained Soil)
- ✓ AGASTACHE FOENICULUM (*LAVENDER HYSSOP*) Perennial (Full Sun to Partial Shade in Average Soils. Can be Invasive in Moist Soils. Blooms into September)

Fall

- ✓ RED CARDINAL FLOWER (*LOBELIA CARDINALIS*) perennial (Moist, Rich Soils with Morning Sun)---Hummingbird Pollinated

- ✓ **SPOTTED JEWELWEED (*IMPATIENS CAPENSIS*)** *Reseeding Annual*---reseeds vigorously, yellow Jewelweed will not attract hummingbirds
- ✓ **LIATRIS VARIETIES (*BLAZING STAR*)** Perennial (Full Sun to Partial Shade in Average Soil---Liatris Aspera and cylindracea Bloom Into October)
- ✓ **SILPHIUM PERFOLIATUM (*CUP PLANT*)** Perennial (Full Sun in Any Soil Type, but can tolerate wet soils)
- ✓ **CAMPANULA ROTUNDIFOLIA (HAREBELL)/CAMPANULA AMERICANA (*TALL BELLFLOWER*)** Perennials (Full Sun to Partial Shade in Well Drained Soil)
- ✓ **MONARDA FISTULOSA (*WILD BERGAMOT*)** Perennial---Hummingbird Pollinated (Full Sun to Partial Shade in Moist Soil)

HUMMINGBIRD PLANTS THAT ARE NATIVE TO THE EASTERN OR WESTERN USA, HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO WISCONSIN, AND HAVE NATURALIZED (AND REQUIRE LITTLE OR NO CARE)

SPRING/EARLY SUMMER

- ✓ **CORAL HONEYSUCKLE, TRUMPET HONEYSUCKLE (*LONICERA SEMPERVIRENS*)** perennial vine (Full Sun with Support Structure)---Hummingbird Pollinated
- ✓ **BEARDTONGUE (*PENSTEMON BARBATUS*)** Short-Lived Perennial (Full Sun in Sandy, Well Drained Soil)---Hummingbird Pollinated

SUMMER

- ✓ **RED BEE BALM, OSWEGO TEA (*MONARDA DIDYMA*)** perennial (Moist, Rich Soils in any light exposure)---Hummingbird Pollinated
- ✓ **FOXGLOVE BEARDTONGUE (*PENSTEMON DIGITALIS*)**---(Full Sun to Shade in Any Soil Type)
- ✓ **CAMPSIS RADICANS (*TRUMPET CREEPER*)** Perennial Vine (Full Sun with Strong Support Structure, Sited Away From Your Home)
- ✓ **DELPHINIUM EXALTATUM (TALL BLUE LARKSPUR)** Perennial to Zone 4 (Full Sun in Rich, Well-Drained Soil)

- ✓ **SYMPHORICARPOS ORBICULATUS (CORALBERRY, INDIAN CURRANT) Perennial Shrub**
(Full Sun to Partial Shade in Average Soil---hardy to zone 3)

FALL

- ✓ **SALVIA AZUREA (PITCHER SAGE, WILD BLUE SAGE) Perennial** (Full Sun in Well-Drained Soil)

Other Wisconsin Native Plants for Hummingbirds

- ✓ Penstemon (Beardtongue) (*Native Varieties Other Than Those Listed Above*)
- ✓ Asclepias tuberosa (*Butterfly Weed*)
- ✓ Indian Paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*)---extremely challenging for the home gardener!
- ✓ Vervain (*Verbena hastata*---moist soils and *stricta*---dry soils) Perennial
- ✓ Mimulus ringens (Monkeyflower) Short lived Perennial---Full sun to Part Shade in Rich, Moist Soils
- ✓ Lobelia siphilitica (Great Blue Lobelia)
- ✓ Phlox (*Native Varieties*)
- ✓ White Turtlehead (*Chelon glabra*) Perennial---Full Sun to Part Shade in Average Soil. Red or Purple Turtlehead, *Chelone obliqua*, is introduced, but grows well in moist, heavy soil types
- ✓ Fireweed (*Epilobium augustifolium*) (*highly attractive to Japanese Beetles!*)
- ✓ Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*)---can be extremely invasive in the home landscape, especially in moist soils!

Wisconsin Native Shrubs for Hummingbirds and Other Birds

- ✓ Pin Cherry, Wild Cherry (*Prunus Pennsylvanica* or *Americanus*)
- ✓ Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
- ✓ Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*)
- ✓ Black Chokecherry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)
- ✓ New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)
- ✓ Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
- ✓ Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
- ✓ Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)

Wisconsin Native Vines for Hummingbirds (often the forgotten plant in gardening---vines are a wonderful way to maximize the impact of a small garden and their vertical growth habit works well for limited sunny garden areas!)

- ✓ Native Honeysuckles Such as *Lonicera dioica*, or *prolifera* or the Introduced *Lonicera sempervirens*

Native Trees Useful for Hummingbirds

- ✓ Ohio Buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*)
- ✓ Crabtree (*Malus species*)

- ✓ Hawthorne (Crataegus species)
- ✓ Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum)
- ✓ Tulip Tree (Liriodendron tulipifera)
- ✓ Spruce & Pine Trees (Native Varieties)

Native Plant Nurseries

- ✓ PRAIRIE NURSERY (Westfield, Wisconsin), www.prairienursery.com, 1-800-476-9453
- ✓ PRAIRIE MOON NURSERY (Winona, Minnesota) www.prairiemoon.com, 1-866-417-8156
- ✓ AGRECOL NATIVE SEED, PLANTS, & RESTORATION (Evansville, Wisconsin), www.agrecol.com, (608) 223-3571
- ✓ BLUESTEM FARM, 55920 Lehman Road, Baraboo, WI 53913, (608) 356-0179, <http://www.bluestemfarm.com/>
- ✓ REESEVILLE RIDGE NURSERY, 512 South Main Street, Reeseville, WI 53579, (920) 927-3291, <http://www.reesevilleridgenursery.com/index.html>
- ✓ THE FLOWER FACTORY (many native and prairie plants are available and their printed catalog is highly descriptive and helpful): 4062 County Road A, Stoughton, WI 53598, (608) 873-8329, <http://www.theflowerfactorynursery.com/index.asp>
- ✓ For a Comprehensive Listing of Native Plant Nurseries in Wisconsin, go to: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/plants/nurseries.htm> on the web.

Books & Resources

- ✓ *"Birdscaping in The Midwest"* by Mariette Nowak
- ✓ *"Landscaping With Native Plants of Wisconsin"* by Lynn M. Steiner
- ✓ *"The Midwestern Native Garden"* by Charlotte Adelman & Bernard L. Schwartz
- ✓ *"Wisconsin Native Plant Sources, Seeds & Plants for Prairies, Woodlands, Wetlands & Shorelands, Sheboygan County University Extension:* <http://sheboygan.uwex.edu/files/2010/05/Wisconsin-Native-Plants-Source.pdf>
- ✓ *"Prairie Plants of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum"* by Theodore S. Cochrane: <http://uwarboretum.org/news/singlePost.php?id=206&origin=news>
- ✓ *"Hummingbirds, Their Life & Behavior"* by Esther & Robert A. Tyrrell, www.amazon.com
- ✓ *"Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air"* DVD: http://www.amazon.com/Nature-Hummingbirds-F-Murray-Abraham/dp/B0037X5BME/ref=sr_1_1?s=movies-tv&ie=UTF8&qid=1332142776&sr=1-1
- ✓ *"Hooked on Hummingbirds", "Hummingbirds, Beauty & The Beast"* DVDs by Thomas Kaminski: <http://www.avianvideocenter.com/>, <http://www.onlinediscountmart.com/bs-avvideo810220.html>, or www.amazon.com
- ✓ *You Can Also Visit:* <http://www.for-wild.org/store/bookstore/>, <http://www.prairiemoon.com/books/> or www.amazon.com to learn about more books related to native plants and gardens in the Upper Midwest
- ✓ *Wild Ones, Native Plants, Natural Landscapes:* <http://www.for-wild.org/>
- ✓ *National Wildlife Federation:* <http://www.nwf.org/>

- ✓ *World Wildlife Fund: <http://www.worldwildlife.org/home-full.html>*
- ✓ *The Hummingbird Society: <http://www.hummingbirdsociety.org/aboutus/aboutus.htm>*
- ✓ *State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources---Rain Gardens: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/runoff/rq/>*
- ✓ *www.hummingbirds.net: Information About Hummingbirds and the Ruby-throat Migration Map*
- ✓ *The Hummingbird Forum: <http://www.network54.com/Forum/439743/>*
- ✓ *"Hummingbird Gardens—Attracting Nature's Jewels to Your Backyard" by Nancy L. Newfield & Barbara Nielson (Out of Print, but Used Copies Are Available on Amazon.com)*
- ✓ *"Landscaping for Wildlife" Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, visit: <http://www.comm.media.state.mn.us/bookstore/mnbookstore.asp?page=viewbook&BookID=68196&stocknum=276> for more information*
- ✓ *"The Wildlife Gardener's Guide to Hummingbirds & Songbirds From the Tropics" by Susan Day, Ron Rovanseck & Jack Griggs (www.amazon.com)*
- ✓ *Wisconsin Society for Ornithology: www.wsobirds.org*
- ✓ *University of Wisconsin Arboretum: www.uwaarboretum.org*
- ✓ *Hummer/Bird Study Group: <http://www.hummingbirdsplus.org/>*
- ✓ *The Hummingbird Society, Sedona, Arizona: www.hummingbirdsociety.org*
- ✓ *Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, Southwest Austin, Texas, <http://wildflower.org/about/>*
- ✓ *Department of Botany, UW-Madison, <http://www.botany.wisc.edu>*

"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you." - Frank Lloyd Wright



"A weed is no more than a flower in disguise." - James Russell Lowell

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