



Attracting Hummingbirds

The most challenging part to attracting Michigan's Ruby-Throated hummingbird is finding plants that provide blossoms throughout the entire season. Late spring



Canna

and early summer blooming plants which hummingbirds are drawn to include: canna, corabells (*Heuchera sanguinea*), delphinium, and irises. Mid to late summer bloomers are cardinal flowers (*Lobelia cardinalis*) and beebalm (*Monarda didyma*). Don't

overlook annuals, salvia 'Black and Blue' is a particular favorite, as are zinnia, petunia, and red salvia.

The ideal garden includes areas with dense shade, partial shade, and full sun, also trees and shrubbery for nesting sites that can be camouflaged. As you do not want to clutter up your hummingbird garden, the birds need some



Monarda

open space. A good rule of thumb is $\frac{1}{4}$ full shade, $\frac{1}{4}$ partial shade and the other half open to full sunlight for free movement to each source of nectar. Provide a water source, and

avoid using pesticides, hummers eat lots of small insects that they catch on the wing or pluck right from a spider's web.

<http://birding.about.com/od/birdprofiles/u/hummingbirds.htm>



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Lobelia