



Hummingbird Feeding Tips

Here are a few things to review before filling a nectar feeder:

1. Check to make sure the base compartments are securely tightened
2. Unscrew base and fill with nectar
3. Screw base back on securely to form an airtight seal
4. We recommend keeping the feeder in the upside down position until you get to the spot where you want to hang it
5. Your feeder is now ready

Hang Your Hummingbird Feeder

Hummingbird feeders should be hung out of direct sunlight, since the sun can spoil the nectar. Hummingbird feeders should also be hung away from windy areas and out of reach of cats. You may also want to place the hummingbird feeder in and around trumpeting flowers. This will help attract more birds to your hummingbird feeder.

Hummingbirds also prefer not to have any obstructions over their feeding area so they can see any predators. If this is the first time you have a hummingbird feeder in your yard, you may have to wait several weeks for hummingbirds to discover it.

Bird Feeder Care

Keeping your hummingbird feeder clean and full of fresh nectar is very important to the health of visiting birds. It is recommended that you clean your hummingbird feeder every week. Clean your feeder more often in warmer weather.

A mild soap and water solution can be used; however, if the hummingbird feeder needs additional cleaning, you can use diluted vinegar. Be sure to rinse completely. It is not recommended that you put any hummingbird feeder into your dishwasher for cleaning.

Protecting Hummingbirds

Deterring Aggressive Birds

Hummingbirds can be especially territorial and aggressive birds. A dominant male can overpower a single feeder defending his food supply. Try a feeder that has large plastic flowers disguising each feeding port. These may block the dominant hummingbird's view of other birds. Another solution is to place several feeders in different parts of your yard.

If your unwelcome guest is actually a predatory bird, such as a hawk, that threatens harm to others, understand that this is a part of nature. However, you can take down your birdfeeder for a few days, until the predatory bird realizes there will be no meal and moves on.

Preventing Invading Insects

Hummingbird feeders have their own pests to deal with, most notably ants who are attracted to the same sugar nectar that hummingbirds like. They are not only stealing food, but they can also contaminate it and discourage hummingbirds from feeding

As a solution to your ant problem, an ant guard can be hung above your hummingbird feeder. The ant guard uses Permethrin to repel ants and is proven safe around birds, pets and people.

Averting Window Collisions

A bird can collide into a window for a number of reasons:

- It may see the reflection of the sky and landscape and think it's heading for open space
- It may also see its own reflection, but mistake it for an enemy bird and attack the window to defend its territory

Here are a few tips you can try to deter birds from colliding with or attacking your windows:

1. Move your feeders further away from your windows
2. Break up the reflection with stickers or plastic wrap
3. Attach branches in front of your window
4. Cover windows with netting or screens

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What criteria should I use when selecting a hummingbird feeder?

A: Make sure it is one that will be easy to clean and fill, especially since you will need to clean the feeder each week.

If you are worried about bees, wasps, or ants invading the feeder, purchase a hummingbird feeder with bee guards or ant guards.

Q: Where is the best place to hang my new hummingbird feeder?

A: Place your hummingbird feeder away from sun and wind. The sun may cause the mixture to turn bad and the wind may swing the feeder around, causing the mixture to spill.

Q: How do I attract hummingbirds to my feeder?

A: Hummingbirds will find your nectar feeder, although there are some steps you can take to help the tiny birds find it sooner. Tying a red ribbon on the feeder wire or pole will help them locate it.

Some enthusiasts prefer to use red nectar, although hummingbirds will also find the clear nectar in hummingbird feeders.

Another method is to plant flowers that attract hummingbirds adjacent to the feeder area.

Placing a birdbath in your yard near the feeder may help to attract them, after which they may also then find the nectar in the feeder.

Q: How do I clean my hummingbird feeders?

A: Hummingbird feeders really need to be cleaned every week by using hot water and a bottle brush, but do not use any soap or detergent. A bleach solution can also be used as long as it is diluted and then rinsed completely.

Q: What is birdscaping?

A: Birdscaping is a common term used to describe creating the ideal environment to entice and support hummingbirds in your yard. Several key elements are as follows:

- Trees, shrubs and flowers provide a perching area, shelter and food.
- Water is a necessary element that is attractive to all birds. Providing a bird bath could be as simple as turning over the clean lid to a trash can and filling it with water.
- Feeders that provide easy access to nectar and keep pests away are ideal for attracting hummingbirds.
- Certain flowers' nectars are also an attractant for hummingbirds.

Q: Are Hummingbirds Really Attracted to Red?

A: Hummingbirds have color vision that surpasses humans and even extends into the UV range. They see all colors well.

The vast majority of nature is green due to vegetation and the color that contrasts most with green is red. It's no coincidence that many hummingbird-pollinated flowers are red or orange; they are the easiest to see and attract hummingbirds the fastest.

However, hummingbirds are very curious creatures that are constantly exploring their environment for food sources that satisfy their high-energy needs. Thus, they often feast upon non-red flowers that have good nectar loads and will return to those flowers as long as nectar is available.

If you have an established location where hummingbirds are known to feed, your feeder does not have to contain the red color; because of their curiosity, hummingbirds will track down a food source, regardless of color