



NATIVE PLANTS FOR HUMMINGBIRDS



Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants
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Hummingbirds are attracted to flowers in the red spectrum but are also attracted to many other colors, including white, purple and yellow. They prefer red flowers because many insects avoid red blossoms, thus there is more nectar in them. The typical hummingbird flower is a long flared tube that keeps out rival pollinators and invites the little birds to lap up the sweet nectar with their long bills and tongues. To provide food year round, plant an assortment of native plants with different blooming seasons.

Avoid using pesticides, as hummingbirds subsist primarily on small insects during fall and winter, and hummers use spider webs to build their nests. Some garden plants provide nesting material, such as the fuzzy hairs on the underside of sycamore leaves. A water source is appreciated; shallow, moving water is best.

Several species of hummingbirds are year-round residents in Southern California; others migrate through our region. These nectar plants will attract and support hummingbirds throughout the seasons.

SPRING

Aquilegia formosa (western columbine) – 2-3' H x 1-2' W – Showy red and yellow flowers. Sun or shade.

Berberis (Mahonia) species and cultivars (barberry, Oregon grape) – Sizes vary – Barrier plants with prickly foliage and yellow flowers.

Calliandra californica (red fairyduster) – 5' H x 5' W – Showy Baja CA native; blooms year round.

Cirsium occidentale (California thistle) – 4' H x 1' W – Annual with magenta flowers that attract many pollinators. Cobweb-like flower filaments are used for nesting.

Comarostaphylis diversifolia (summer holly) – 10' H x 8' W – Dense shrub that flowers from May to June.

Dudleya species and cultivars (live forever) – 6 in. to 2' W rosettes – Succulent plants, blooming in late spring or early summer.

Gambelia (Galvezia) species (Island and Baja snapdragon) – 4-5' H x 4-5' W – Bright green foliage and tubular red flowers.

Heuchera species and cultivars (coral bells, alum root) – 1' H x 1-2' W – Shade-loving perennials with flower colors ranging from white to dark pink to red.

Peritoma (Isomeris) arborea (bladderpod) – 4' H x 4' W – Intricate yellow flowers and unique seed pods.

Keckiella cordifolia (heart-leaf penstemon) – 3-5' H x 4-6' W – Red-orange flowers late spring to early summer. Late-summer deciduous.

Lonicera hispidula, L. subspicata (honeysuckle) – 10-20' long – Vining shrubs with pink or yellow flowers (depending on species) followed by red berries.

Mimulus aurantiacus (sticky monkeyflower) – 2' H x 2-3' W – Showy apricot or yellow flowers in spring. Many cultivars in other colors. Best with afternoon shade.

(over)

SPRING, *continued*

Penstemon species and cultivars – Sizes vary – Colorful perennials with tubular flowers, usually in shades of red, purple or blue.

Ribes species and cultivars (currant and gooseberry) – 5-6' H x 5-6' W – Flowers vary in color from white to pink to yellow to red. Best in part sun to shade. Summer deciduous (except *R. viburnifolium*).

Salvia species and cultivars (sage) – Sizes vary – Very fragrant drought-tolerant shrubs with showy flowers. Low spreading *S. spathacea* (hummingbird sage) is especially attractive to hummers.

Trichostema lanatum (woolly blue curls) – 4' H x 4' W – Fragrant shrub with fuzzy purple-blue flowers. No summer water once established.

SUMMER

Antirrhinum multiflorum (chaparral snapdragon) – 2-4' H x 2-4' W – Short-lived pink-flowering perennial.

Calliandra californica (red fairy duster) – 5' H x 5' W – Showy Baja CA native; blooms year round.

Comarostaphylis diversifolia (summer holly) – 10' H x 8' W – Dense evergreen shrub with white May/June flowers.

Gambelia (Galvezia) species and cultivars (island and Baja snapdragon) – 4-5' H x 4-5' W – Bright green foliage and tubular red flowers.

Dudleya species and cultivars (live forever, chalk lettuce) – 6 in. to 2' rosettes – Succulent plants with green or gray foliage, and white, yellow, pink or red flowers in late spring or early summer.

Epilobium (Zauschneria) species and cultivars (California fuchsia) – 1-3' H x 3-4' W – Red to red-orange (sometimes pink or white) flowers in late summer and fall.

Peritoma (Isomeris) arborea (bladderpod) – 4' H x 4' W – Intricate yellow flowers and unique seed pods.

Keckiella cordifolia (heart-leaf penstemon) – 3-5' H x 4-6' W – Red-orange flowers late spring to early summer. Late summer deciduous.

Chilopsis linearis (desert willow) – 20' H x 15' W – Large shrub or small multi-trunked tree with showy purple-pink flowers. Winter deciduous.

Stachys species (hedge nettle) – 1-2' H x spreading – Riparian perennials with fragrant foliage and pink or white flowers.

FALL

Calliandra californica (red fairy duster) – 5' H x 5' W – Showy Baja CA native; blooms year round.

Epilobium (Zauschneria) species and cultivars (California fuchsia) – 1-3' H x 3-4' W – Red to red-orange (sometimes pink or white) flowers in late summer and fall.

Gambelia (Galvezia) species (island and Baja snapdragon) – 4-5' H x 4-5' W – Bright green foliage and tubular red flowers.

WINTER

Arctostaphylos species and cultivars (manzanita) – Sizes vary – Available as groundcovers and shrubs. All are evergreen and drought-tolerant with red-brown bark. Flower colors range from white to pink; blooming times range from early fall to mid spring.

Calliandra californica (red fairy duster) – 5' H x 5' W – Showy Baja CA native; blooms year round.

Ribes species and cultivars (currant and gooseberry) – 5-6' H x 5-6' W – Flowers vary in color from white to pink to yellow to red. Best in part sun to shade. Summer deciduous (except *R. viburnifolium*).