

## FEEDING HUMMINGBIRDS

### Hummingbird Nectar Feeders

Nectar feeders provide liquid high-energy nectar for hummingbirds. Choose a hummingbird nectar feeder that is simple to use and easy to clean. We recommend saucer type feeders like the [High Perch Hummingbird Feeders from Wild Birds Unlimited](#). These feeders have perches where hummingbirds can rest while feeding, a built-in ant moat to discourage ants, and are dishwasher safe.

Place nectar feeders in the shade, or under a dome cover, four feet or more above the ground near hummingbird nectar plants and out of range of cats and other predators. If you have more than one hummingbird visitor, place two nectar feeders in different locations out of sight of each other to minimize competition.

### Protein

Place a piece of old fruit, like melon or citrus, outside to attract tiny fruit flies for hummingbirds to eat for protein.

### Hummingbird Nectar Recipe

#### Ingredients:

1 cup white cane sugar\*  
4 cups water

**\*Do not use honey, brown sugar, artificial sweeteners, juice, food coloring or dyes**

#### Directions:

- Dissolve 1 cup of white cane sugar in 4 cups of water\*
  - Boiling is not necessary but helps extend shelf life of nectar
  - Store in refrigerator for 5 days
- \*1 cup sugar to 5 parts water may be used when temperatures are over 90 degrees

### Cleaning Nectar Feeders

Hummingbird nectar feeders need to be cleaned and refilled every 3 to 5 days – more frequently in hot weather as nectar can spoil fast and cause illness or death for hummingbirds. If the nectar solution turns cloudy it is spoiled and needs to be changed.

- Empty any remaining nectar
- Clean hummingbird nectar feeders in the dishwasher or with vinegar and hot water – do not use bleach or chemicals
- Use a bottle brush to remove dirt or mold
- Rinse well
- Refill with fresh nectar and replace outside