

How to Become a Community Hummingbird “Viewing Site”

Be willing to:

- Be listed during the Celebration as a community viewing site, open to Celebration registrants.
- Put up an official sign in front of your business or home the week of the Celebration (sign provided by Chamber).
- Place feeders at your business or home beginning August 1 and keep them filled to attract birds until after the Celebration is over (end of August).
- Inform the Chamber of Commerce Director, Melissa Henderson at 432-426-3015 or email director@fortdavis.com

How to Setup and Maintain Your Hummingbird Feeder

What do hummingbirds eat?

The Hummingbird diet consists of small soft body insects (aphids, gnats, small spiders, small fruit flies that feed on rotten fruit, etc.) and nectar from flowers which is mostly sucrose. When you put up a feeder, you are providing them an easy access to only the sucrose part of their diet. This is very important when flower nectar is in short supply.

Selection of Feeder:

Purchase a feeder that has no hidden areas. Be sure all the inside surfaces can be reached and cleaned with a bottle brush (this will eliminate many types).

Feeder Food: Sugar water prepared as below:

One (1) Part White Sugar *Do not boil sugar*

Four (4) Parts Boiled Water *Re-measure after boiling*

Cool to room temperature and then fill feeder

The above ratio approximates the sugar to water ratio present in the nectar of Hummingbird flowers. Too much sugar is hard on their liver and kidneys. Too little sugar will not provide the needed calories and may cause them to lose interest in your feeder.

DO NOT USE:

- Red Dye
- Commercial Hummingbird food
- Honey or artificial sweeteners
- Anything other than the one to four sugar water mixture described above.

Hanging the Feeder:

You can use a piece of coat hanger to hang the feeder in a shady spot out of full sun. Apply an ant guard to the hanger if you have an ant problem. **Hang the feeder where the Hummingbirds are safe from cats.**

Maintain Feeder Cleanliness:

You will need to wash the feeder out in very hot water every two to three days. Use a bottle brush to scrub all surfaces then rinse well. In hot weather, above 60 degrees, clean and change feeder every 2 days. Hummingbirds put their tongues into the feeder to drink and sugar water is a good medium for the growth of pathogens. If you see any mold in the feeder or the mixture becomes cloudy, then it was left up too long without cleaning. Remember, if it is not clean enough for you to drink from then your feeder is not fit for these delicate little Hummingbirds.

Fruit and Flowers:

You can put out spoiled fruit in a plastic bucket, which will draw small gnat and fruit flies. You can get Hummingbird flowers and/or seed mixture from your nursery. **Always consider the cat problem and hang where cats can't pick off the Hummingbirds (they get very good at doing that) .**

