

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

NECTAR GUIDE

Nectar is the fuel. Insects and spiders are the protein. A sprayed yard starves nestlings even with a full feeder.



SEVEN NATIVES THAT DO THE WORK HERE ♦



1 CARDINAL FLOWER *Lobelia cardinalis*

A M J J A S O Bloom **Jul-Sep**

HEIGHT **2-4 ft** SUN **Sun / part shade** SOIL **Moist to wet**

The single best hummingbird plant in New Jersey. Scarlet and deeply tubular, essentially built for this bird. Wants steady moisture: pond edge, ditch, or rain garden.



2 TRUMPET HONEYSUCKLE *Lonicera sempervirens*

A M J J A S O Bloom **May-Sep**

HEIGHT **Vine 8-15 ft** SUN **Full sun** SOIL **Average, drained**

Long bloom and non-aggressive. The honest replacement for the invasive Japanese honeysuckle a lot of people already have on the fence.



3 WILD COLUMBINE *Aquilegia canadensis*

A M J J A S O Bloom **Apr-Jun**

HEIGHT **1-2.5 ft** SUN **Part shade** SOIL **Average to dry**

Times its bloom to the spring arrival, when almost nothing else tubular is open. Nodding spurs hold nectar right where the bill goes.



4 JEWELWEED *Impatiens capensis*

A M J J A S O Bloom **Jul-Oct**

HEIGHT **2-5 ft** SUN **Part shade to shade** SOIL **Moist, damp shade**

A free annual that self-sows in wet shade and blooms straight through fall migration. Probably already on your property. Stop pulling it.

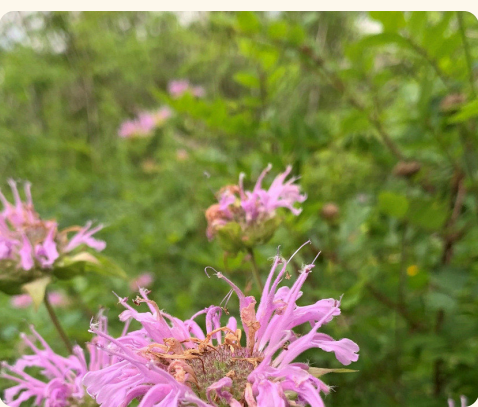


5 SCARLET BEE BALM *Monarda didyma*

A M J J A S O Bloom **Jun-Aug**

HEIGHT **2-4 ft** SUN **Sun / part shade** SOIL **Moist, rich**

Bright red and heavily worked. Give it air movement or it gets powdery mildew. Wants more moisture than most of our sandy sites offer.



6 WILD BERGAMOT *Monarda fistulosa*

A M J J A S O Bloom **Jun-Aug**

HEIGHT **2-4 ft** SUN **Sun / part shade** SOIL **Dry to average**

Lavender rather than red, but hummingbirds work it hard, and it takes South Jersey sand far better than its scarlet cousin.



7 GREAT BLUE LOBELIA *Lobelia siphilitica*

A M J J A S O Bloom **Jul-Sep**

HEIGHT **2-3 ft** SUN **Part shade / sun** SOIL **Moist to wet**

Cardinal flower's blue relative: same tubular shape, easier to keep going in a damp shaded corner.

IF YOU HANG A FEEDER, PLEASE MAINTAIN IT PROPERLY.



- FOUR TO ONE**
Four parts water to one part plain white sugar. Cool before filling.
- NOTHING ELSE IN IT**
No red dye. No honey, it ferments and grows fungus. No raw or brown sugar, no sweetener.
- CLEAN ON A SCHEDULE**
Every two to three days in summer heat, weekly when cool. Black spots in the ports mean it needs a scrub.
- LEAVE IT UP IN FALL**
Feeders do not delay migration, day length does. Late birds and western strays use them.
- SPREAD THEM OUT**
One bird will guard a single feeder. Two or three out of sight of each other let more birds feed.
- KEEP THE BUGS**
No insecticide near the yard. Nestlings run on gnats, aphids, and small spiders.

DID YOU KNOW? A SOUTH JERSEY NOTE ON WINTER HUMMINGBIRDS.

Ruby-throats are our only breeding hummingbird, but rufous hummingbirds, a western species, turn up in New Jersey as late-fall and winter strays, and records have been increasing. If you get a hummingbird in **November or December**, photograph it and report it to New Jersey Audubon or eBird before assuming it is a late ruby-throat.

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