For more information on Texas hummingbirds:
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hummingbirds/
or contact the Texas Hummingbird Roundup at
Texas Hummingbird Roundup
4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744

For more ideas on hummingbird gardening:
Hummingbirds of Texas by Cliff Shackelford,
Madge Lindsay and Mark Klym or
Texas Wildscapes; Gardening for Wildlife
by Kelly Bender.
These books should be available in most
book stores and libraries.
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/wildscapes/

Texas Hummingbirds

The more common twelve:
- Buff-bellied Hummingbird
- Blue-throated Hummingbird
- Broad-billed Hummingbird
- Magnificent Hummingbird
- Lucifer Hummingbird
- Anna’s Hummingbird
- Black-chinned Hummingbird
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Calliope Hummingbird
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird
- Allen’s Hummingbird

The other Texas six:
These are rare species and should be recorded and documented whenever seen.
- Green Violet-ear
- Green-breasted Mango
- White-eared Hummingbird
- Berylline Hummingbird
- Violet-crowned Hummingbird
- Costa’s Hummingbird

Why a Garden?
- Feeders alone do not provide the needs of the birds
- Gardens are more likely to result in a
diverse population with greater density
- Gardens provide resources necessary not
only for hummingbirds, but for other wildlife
species as well
- Gardens provide an aesthetic and
recreational opportunity for us

What is a Hummingbird Garden?
A hummingbird garden is going to provide the
shelter, food, water and space needs of the
birds. It will include mature trees, shrubs and
bushes, perennial and annual wildflowers,
vines and other plants that are especially
attractive to these birds. Nectar producing
plants are only part of the picture — insect
sheltering plants will also be critical. Water
sources will also be important.

Feeders
Feeders do have a place in this garden, but not
as the central focus. They should be used to:
- Supplement plants that provide food
resources
- Position the birds in areas for easy viewing
- Attract the birds to less used portions of the
garden

Quick Tips on Attracting and Maintaining a
Hummingbird Habitat in Texas

Life’s better outside:
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE
NOTICE
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department receives federal financial assistance from the U.S.
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the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990,
the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972,
the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis
of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex (in educational programs). If you
believe that you have been discriminated against in any Texas Parks and Wildlife
Department program, activity, or facility, or if you desire further information, please call
or write: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office for Diversity and Civil Rights
Programs—External Programs, 4949 N. Fairfax Drive, Webb 300, Arlington, VA 22203,
(703) 358-1724.
Providing Shelter for Hummingbirds

Learn from the birds:
A quick look at the natural history of hummingbirds cannot help but impress on the student that these are mountain birds. The most diverse location in the world for hummingbird species is the mountainous regions of Ecuador and Peru. This tells us that these birds probably originated in this location. The best way to provide habitat for any animal is to provide settings that resemble where they are found in nature.

Hummingbirds need shelter. Mature trees that develop a canopy over much of the garden are going to be important. Some open sky is needed for escape, but after a short run in open sky these birds do retreat to a tree or shrub.

Beneath the trees, shrubs for perching, to provide food and in some cases for nesting, will be important. This is often a significant part of the garden that is forgotten – the only shrubs you will see in many hummingbird gardens are those intended to provide food for the birds. A good selection of diverse bushes for both shelter and food purposes is vital to a diverse, dense population of hummingbirds.

Food Resources for Hummingbirds

Remember, while sugar is important to these birds, it is not the only food resource. We need to provide for not only their energy needs, but vitamins, minerals, protein and other nutrients as well. This is done with a carefully planned and maintained garden.

A good hummingbird garden will include:

- Nectar producing plants designed for hummingbird attraction
  - Plants with trumpet shaped flowers usually oriented horizontal or downward
- Insect attracting plants
  - Plants with large, flat flower heads usually oriented vertical or near so
  - These are generally yellow or blue in color

Bloom season is important. In Texas it is possible to have hummingbirds year-round, so you should aim to have plants in bloom as long as possible. In the northern reaches this becomes more difficult because of frost, but careful selection can extend the hummingbird season by weeks. Try to select plants with overlapping bloom periods so that there is always something in bloom.

Plant a food source: Nectar producers and insect attractors

Shelter Trees and Shrubs

- Pecans
- Oaks
- Elms
- Cedar
- Pines
- Mountain laurel

Selection Tips
- Think native
- Remember the needs of the plant and the space available
- Always plant in mid to late fall or early winter for best results through the summer

Please avoid:
- Chinese tallow
- Pyracantha
- Chinaberry
- Ligustrum
- Nandina
- Agarita
- Yaupon holly

Selected Food Plants for Texas Hummingbirds

- Any native sage such as autumn sage (Salvia gregii)
- Trumpet vine
- Cross vine
- Coral honeysuckle
- Texas lantana (Lantana urticoides)
- Turk's cap
- Yellow bells
- Flame acanthus
- Native hibiscus

Layout Tips
- Try to provide food at multiple levels of the garden
- Plant islands of color
- Be sure to have plants with overlapping bloom periods in each garden

Please avoid:
- Japanese honeysuckle

Water for Hummingbirds

All wildlife, including hummingbirds, require water. With hummingbirds there may be some concerns that are not addressed by the average bird bath or the wildlife water dish.

You must consider:
- Depth – most bird baths are too deep for hummingbirds
- Slope – you do not want steep sided containers since they are difficult for an animal to exit

Moving water is much more attractive to wildlife than is still water.

Get the water moving by:
- In bird baths, install a “water wiggler” device that vibrates in the tank creating a ripple
- In bird baths, installing a dripper to create a constant supply and to create a ripple
- In ponds, by circulating the water through a pump and falls
- In the garden, using a mister to create fine particles of water through which the birds fly and drink
- In the garden, by providing moisture on the leaves of plants (left after irrigation) for birds to drink and bathe in

Water:
- Should be fresh
- Should be moving
- Needs to be shallow
- Needs to be useable