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## Create Your Own Hummingbird Haven

Who wouldn't enjoy seeing more of these colorful, hypnotic, tiny birds humming around their backyard garden? We have some simple ideas to show you how to create your own hummingbird haven and get these fascinating creatures attracted to your yard.

### Food Source

When plotting your hummingbird habitat, an essential factor will be to create and maintain their food source. After all, these little bundles of energy eat all day, flitting to 1,000 to 2,000 flowers a day. Why not make their efforts worthwhile by providing proper fuel?

### Which Flowers Work Best

Visit your local nursery and learn which blooms will flourish best in your region before you start planting. You will want to choose a variety of flowers that will provide the hummingbird with a continuous food source from early spring through late summer. Also, use as many different color blossoms as possible. Hummingbirds are particularly attracted to the color red but will drink from any color bloom.

### Hummingbird Favorites

The following is a list of proven favorites of the hummingbird. Plant at different heights if possible, with taller plants in the back. Use both perennials and annuals. Perennials will offer a food source that will last for years. Use annuals to create dramatic bursts of color that will attract the birds to your garden.

TheSpruce.com suggests trying a combination of the following flower species:

*Bee Balm, Bleeding Hearts, Calico Bush, Cardinal Flower, Carpet Bugle, Columbia Lily, Columbine, Coneflowers, Coral Bells, Desert Trumpet, Fuchsia, Impatiens, Larkspur, Petunias, Scarlet Creeper, Trumpet Honeysuckle, Trumpet Vine, Zinnias*

Flower species native to your area are ideal, as they will provide a food source more familiar to the hummingbird. The long, tapered shape of the blooms can accommodate the little birds' long bills and provide plenty of nectar.

### Tending to the Blooms

- Be sure to remove dead or dying flowers from the vines. Hummingbirds will avoid these plants, knowing there is little or no nectar available within.
- Avoid using anything other than natural pesticides or insecticides for insect control. Aside from being harmful to the hummingbirds, it also depletes insects, which serve as a food source for hummingbirds.

- Consider a water dripper for your garden or a mister. Having a water supply near will keep hummingbirds close and may encourage them to nest.

Creating your own hummingbird haven may take some experimentation. In the end, these little dynamos with an abundant appetite will charm their way into your garden and your life!

## April Calendar

**April 1 - April Fool's Day**

**April 12 - Easter Sunday**

**April 22 - Earth Day**

**April is Lawn & Garden Month**

## Homeowner Tip:



### Leaky Faucet?

If your faucet is leaking, it's probably because the rubber washer inside the faucet handle has worn down. To replace it, turn off the main water supply and unscrew the leaky handle that controls the faucet's water flow. Remove the old washer, drop in the new one, and screw the handle back in place.

## 5 Down-to-Earth Ways to Celebrate Earth Day

1. Organize a litter pick-up day with your family and friends. Include the kids. Walk around your neighborhood and local parks and pick up any litter you see. Wear gloves, and recycle what you gather.

2. Plant a vegetable patch. Later, you and your family can enjoy fresh and truly organic produce without a trip to the grocery store. Limited space? Plant an herb garden using containers.

3. Create a recycle center for your home. Make sure your family has a place to

separate trash from recyclables, such as plastic water bottles, soda cans, and cardboard packaging.

4. Leave your car home for the day. Earth Day is a perfect excuse to get your bicycle out of your garage and on to a nearby errand. Talk to your co-workers and neighbors about starting a carpool.

5. Take another look at alternative energy sources for your home. Solar, geothermal, and wind energy options are becoming increasingly affordable.



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## Thai Glazed Chicken

### For the Sauce:

1/2 c. sweet chili sauce  
3 tbsp. low-sodium soy sauce  
Juice of 1 lime  
1 tbsp. honey  
2 tsp. freshly grated ginger  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 tbsp. sriracha

### For the Chicken:

4 bone-in skin-on chicken thighs  
2 tsp. vegetable oil  
2 green onions, thinly sliced  
Chopped peanuts, for garnish

Cooked rice, for serving  
Lime wedges, for serving

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 425°. In a large bowl, whisk together all ingredients for the marinade. Add chicken thighs and toss until coated. Let marinate 20 minutes.

In a large oven-proof skillet, heat vegetable oil. Add thighs and sear until charred, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Transfer to oven and bake until chicken is no longer pink, 15 minutes.

Garnish chicken with green onions and peanuts and serve with rice and limes.



*Photo & recipe courtesy of delish.com*