

## Tips for feeding hummingbirds

While flowering plants, especially tubular-shaped flowers, are the best source of nectar for hummingbirds, a sugar feeder can help supplement their diet to help them thrive during migration, nesting and raising their chicks. Following are some tips to get you started.



### NECTAR RECIPE:

4 parts water to 1 part white sugar (no sugar substitutes or honey).

### DIRECTIONS:

Mix with water then stir until crystal clear. Do not add red dye. There are studies that indicate it is harmful to hummingbirds and it is not necessary.

### STORING and CHANGING NECTAR

Be sure to change the nectar any time that it looks cloudy or if ants or other insects have gotten into it. Keep unused nectar in the refrigerator. Even nectar that is stored in the fridge may become moldy, so if you see any black mold or cloudiness in the nectar, make fresh. If hummingbirds stop feeding at your feeder, that's a good sign that you need to put fresh nectar in the feeder.

Nectar spoils quickly in the heat. Change the nectar every 2-3 days or more often if temperatures are warm even if hummingbirds have not consumed all of it.

93° +	Change nectar daily
89° - 92°	Change every 2 days
85° - 88°	Change every 3 days
81° - 84°	Change every 4 days
76° - 80°	Change every 5 days
71° - 75°	Change every 6 days

### ADDITIONAL HINTS:

An ant moat filled with water will keep ants out of your feeder.

Keep hummingbird feeders super clean. Sugar water creates mold, so just rinsing your feeders each time you fill them will not be enough to make sure they are really clean. Use hot water and dish soap when you clean them.

If you get stubborn areas that won't clean with scrubbing you can soak the feeder in a very mild solution of bleach and water. Be sure to rinse very thoroughly with hot water before refilling the feeder with nectar.

We recommend getting special hummingbird brushes to use in cleaning out the crevices and little holes of the feeding ports.

If you have any questions about your hummingbirds or feeders, please email us at [info@fatfinch.com](mailto:info@fatfinch.com) or call us at (505) 977-4378.