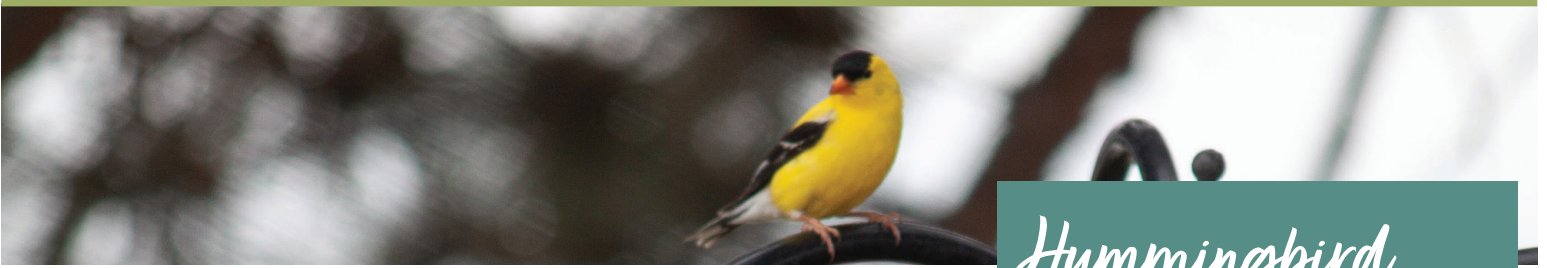


# Backyard Bird Checklist

A guide to seasonal maintenance for bird feeders, birdhouses, birdbaths, and more



## Hummingbird Nectar Recipe

1 part white sugar

4 parts water

Boil, cool, store any extra for up to 2 weeks

Clean feeder twice weekly

*Never use food coloring*

## Year-Round Maintenance

- Clean birdfeeders monthly with 5% bleach. Be sure to always wear gloves, rinse thoroughly, then dry.
- Rinse birdbaths weekly in the summer, and monthly in the winter.

## Spring

- After insects emerge, clean your garden.
- Take down roosting boxes and convert into nesting boxes.
- Clean birdbaths with 5% bleach.
- Take down some of your suet feeders, clean, and fill with nesting material.
- Plant container gardens with flowers to attract pollinators like hummingbirds.
- Make hummingbird feeders available in mid-late April.

## Summer

Clean birdbaths monthly with 5% bleach.

Plant herbs and other companion plants among flowers and vegetables.

Rinse hummingbird feeders with hot water twice weekly, then refill. Do not use food coloring.

## Fall

- Clean birdhouses while wearing gloves.
- To protect from potential disease, you may want to clean with 5% bleach.
- Hang roosting boxes.
- Keep hummingbird feeders and flowers available until mid-October for migrating birds. Hummingbirds hibernate on cold nights. Bring feeders inside on nights where a freeze is predicted, but remember to put them back outside first thing in the morning.
- Mid-late October: Clean hummingbird feeders and store away for next year.
- Put out more suet feeders when insects become scarce.

(winter care tips on back)

# Winter

- Keep birdbaths filled with fresh water.
- De-ice birdbaths when possible. You may try pond heaters or de-icers.
- Clear snow off of feeders during winter storms.
- February is National Bird Feeding Month. As natural food sources are scarce this time of year, seed feeders are especially important.