

## Hummingbird feeders by Cheryl G. Simmons

After purchasing a lake house a few weeks ago with the intent of relaxing more than we ever had I began to have an unusual interest in hummingbirds. I purchased a couple of beautiful bright red feeders thinking they would just instantaneously appear but that didn't happen. I decided I had better do my homework and see what I could do to attract these beautiful little creatures and this is what I learned.....

Hummingbirds are easy to attract to your garden but if proper care isn't taken to provide healthy nectar and clean feeders it is easy to kill the birds as well. If the feeders aren't kept clean and free from mold and fungus the tiny birds can develop a deadly fungus infection. This infection causes their tongue to swell, making it impossible for the birds to feed. The mother bird can also pass the infection to her babies who will also die of starvation.

Nectar can also ferment in the feeders in just a matter of days which caused liver damage and can be fatal in 24 hours.

Other dangers to these beautiful creatures are the BPA's in the plastic bottles. Always purchase glass feeders that are colored red. Red food coloring should never be added to the feeding nectar as this is a toxic chemical. Organic cane sugar should be used instead of regular sugar which is made with GMO sugar cane. According to [annointedwithoil.blogspot.com](http://annointedwithoil.blogspot.com) the best way to insure healthy hummingbirds for years to come is to wash the feeders with Young Living Thieves Household Cleaner by adding 1 drop to a small bowl of warm water and then rinse well. You can also add 1 drop of Sacred Frankincense, Abundance, Australian Blue or Balsam Fir to your organic sugar mixture for an added treat for your hummingbirds.

I am happy to report, with some patience and healthy nectar, we are now blessed with an abundance of beautiful humming birds hopefully for many years to come.