



## FYN Garden Q & A Series

**Thomas Becker**  
Extension Agent, Florida  
Yards & Neighborhoods



### FYN Topic: Attract Hummingbirds with Native Habitat

**Question:** I live in Fort Myers and want to put some new Florida-Friendly Landscaping at my residence. I would really like something with color that would attract hummingbirds. The landscaping I'm looking for would have to meet the requirements of Florida Statute 373.185. Buddy C. via email

**Answer:** That Florida statute directs homeowners to plant quality landscapes that conserve water, protect the environment, are adaptable to local conditions, are drought tolerant and can be designed to attract wildlife. Attracting hummingbirds to your garden is a great goal to have even if you live in a gated community. Flowering plants that attract hummingbirds include: the Bottlebrush or Hong Kong Orchid tree, firebush, jatropha, coral bean, necklace pod, bleeding heart vine, honeysuckle, crossvine, fire-cracker plant, firespike, Lion's Tail, Louisiana iris, pentas, salvia, porterweeds, verbenas, monarda and Mexican sunflower.

Hummingbirds have a liquid diet of nectar. Red, orange and pink flowers are usually good hummingbird attractant flower colors. Also, large flowers that have a tubular shape, either solitary or in loose drooping clusters work best. Ideally a garden for hummingbirds would have a range of plant sizes from low groundcovers to taller shrubs, trees and hedges providing shelter. Having good hummingbird habitat nearby (parks, preserves or natural plant communities containing natives that attract hummingbirds) makes it more likely hummingbirds will visit a yard nearby.



**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

### Useful Links

<http://www.floridayards.org>  
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>  
<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>

Thomas Becker is an extension agent for the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program at the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the Horticulture Help Desk at 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by emailing [Extgardener@leegov.com](mailto:Extgardener@leegov.com). Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

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