

4 SPECIES YOU'LL SEE

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Florida's only widespread breeder, and outside the Panhandle the only hummingbird you'll ever see.

BREEDER

Rufous Hummingbird

About half of all hummingbirds banded here in winter. Almost entirely a Panhandle bird.

WINTER

Black-chinned Hummingbird

A regular winter visitor, Panhandle and north-central only.

WINTER

Buff-bellied Hummingbird

Winters along the Gulf side. Red bill tipped in black — nothing else here has it.

WINTER

Twelve species are on Florida's official state list, but they're concentrated in the north — see the regional table.

NORTH AND SOUTH RUN OPPOSITE SEASONS

REGION	BUSIEST	SPECIES
Western Panhandle (Pensacola)	September	6
Central Panhandle (Tallahassee)	September	7
North Peninsula (Gainesville)	July–August	6
Central (Orlando, Tampa)	October	2
South (Miami, Naples)	Oct–February	3
The Keys	April	1

Gainesville peaks in July and August. Miami is empty then, and busiest October through February. The birds are always somewhere in Florida — just not everywhere at once. If your southern feeder sits untouched all summer, nothing is wrong.

♀ FEEDER CARE BASICS

Nectar ratio	4 parts water : 1 part sugar
Red dye, honey, substitutes	None — unnecessary or harmful
Above 90°F	Change daily; keep feeder shaded
80–90°F	Every 2–3 days
Below 70°F	Every 5–6 days
Feeders up	Late Feb in the north; year-round elsewhere

🌸 TOP NATIVE PLANTS

BLOOMS NEARLY YEAR-ROUND

Firebush Tropical Sage

SPRING — FIRST ARRIVALS

Coral Honeysuckle Red Buckeye Coralbean

SUMMER & FALL

Cardinal Flower Standing Cypress Blue Porterweed

⚠️ SOLD AS HUMMINGBIRD PLANTS — DON'T BUY

All five are flagged by UF/IFAS or the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council.

- Common lantana — Category 1 invasive; hybridizes with Florida's native lantana. Native has a tapered leaf base, invasive a squared one.
- Mexican petunia — Category 1; displaces natives in wetlands.
- Flame vine — high invasion risk; smothers other vegetation.
- Japanese honeysuckle — prohibited in Florida. Plant coral honeysuckle instead.
- "African" firebush — hybridizes with the native. Ask for *Hamelia patens* var. *patens*.

🌟 PERFECT LITTLE SANCTUARY® IN FLORIDA

- ✓ Lance-Leaved Coreopsis — Florida native
- ✓ Black-Eyed Susan — Florida native
- ✓ Purple Coneflower — native to the Panhandle

Sow **October–November** in North and Central Florida. Fair warning: 9 of the blend's 12 varieties want a cold, moist winter to germinate well, and most of Florida doesn't provide one.