

Nectar Recipe

Hummingbirds feed on flower nectar and insects. To make your own nectar, the correct solution that resembles plant nectar should be:

1 part sugar
4 parts water

Boil the water first, then add the sugar. The boiling water will ensure your nectar stays fresh longer and retards fermentations. Add the sugar to the water after it has boiled. Don't boil the sugar and water together. Doing so will cause some of the water to evaporate and will create nectar that is too concentrated. If the nectar is too sweet it can damage a bird's liver.

DO NOT USE:

1. Red food coloring or dye
2. Artificial sweeteners which have no nutritional value
3. Honey which ferments quickly and causes a deadly fungus

Place your feeder in the shade and keep out of direct sun and wind. Be sure to clean your feeder regularly and replace the solution often. Clean your feeder with hot water or a 10% bleach solution. Rinse thoroughly and allow to dry completely before refilling. Change your solution every two to three days when the weather is hot or consistently over 60 degrees.