Top Native Plants for Hummingbirds
Lisa Tompkins - Southern Piedmont Chapter

Trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*) – Woody, deciduous, long-flowering vine with brilliant orange flowers all summer long. Aggressive growth habit makes it difficult for small gardens. Best used on sturdy, free standing structures or in wild spaces. Important summer nectar source for hummingbirds.

Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*) – Woody, evergreen vine with orange tubular flowers which occur in spring and intermittently into fall. Vigorous.

Red Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) – Easy woodland wildflower with orange and yellow flowers in spring/early summer. Reseeds but not aggressively. Tolerates sun-shade and a range of moisture levels.

Red Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*) – Summer flowering wildflower. Likes full sun, moist soil and good air circulation. Choose a mildew resistant variety. Hummingbirds and butterflies love it!

Fire Pinks (*Silene virginica*) – Occurs in open woods and rocky slopes. Fiery red blooms in mid-spring. Prefers dappled shade and moderate to dry soil. Lovely addition to the shade garden.

Indian Pinks (*Spigelia marilandica*) – Spring blooming wildflower which does well in shady gardens. Red blooms with yellow centers in spring on 1-2’ stems. Great addition to your shady garden.

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) – One of our loveliest wildflowers! Bright red flower spikes in late summer. Naturally occurs in ditches, stream edges and other low areas. Grows in sun or shade. Don’t allow to dry out or mulch too heavily.

Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) – Crowded out by its invasive, fragrant Japanese cousin, our native honeysuckle has much better manners and provides early nectar for arriving hummingbirds in spring. Red, tubular flowers on twining, non-aggressive vine. Works well in the home landscape on trellises, mailboxes or other structures. Often overlooked!

Red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) – Large shrub/small tree which naturally occurs in the sandhills/coastal plain of the Carolinas. Good garden plant for the Piedmont with showy red flower spikes in spring. May drop leaves in summer so site it where it can be appreciated in spring but isn’t dominant in summer. Likes part shade and moist soil. Grows 10-15’ tall and wide.

Spotted jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) – Annual, wetland flower. Important summer nectar source for hummingbirds. Not suitable for most home gardens but a great addition to wild, shady wetlands.

Learn more by visiting our website at [www.ncwildflower.org](http://www.ncwildflower.org). The Southern Piedmont Chapter generally meets the second Sunday of the month at Reedy Creek Nature Center. Check our website for upcoming events. Join us!