

HOMEMADE HUMMINGBIRD FOOD RECIPE

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SIMPLE 1:4 SUGAR-WATER NECTAR FOR YOUR BACKYARD HUMMINGBIRDS

MAKING YOUR OWN HUMMINGBIRD FOOD COULDN'T BE EASIER. ALL YOU NEED ARE TWO SIMPLE INGREDIENTS: PLAIN WHITE GRANULATED SUGAR AND WATER.

THE BASIC HUMMINGBIRD NECTAR RATIO IS 1 PART SUGAR TO 4 PARTS WATER. THERE'S NO NEED TO ADD RED FOOD COLORING, HONEY, OR ANYTHING ELSE.

INGREDIENTS

- 4 CUPS WATER
- 1 CUP PLAIN WHITE GRANULATED SUGAR

INSTRUCTIONS

1. HEAT THE WATER. BRING THE WATER TO A BOIL OR HEAT IT UNTIL IT IS HOT ENOUGH TO EASILY DISSOLVE THE SUGAR.
2. ADD THE SUGAR. STIR 1 CUP OF WHITE GRANULATED SUGAR INTO 4 CUPS OF WATER UNTIL THE SUGAR HAS COMPLETELY DISSOLVED AND THE LIQUID IS CLEAR.
3. COOL COMPLETELY. ALLOW THE HUMMINGBIRD FOOD TO COOL COMPLETELY BEFORE FILLING YOUR CLEAN HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER.
4. FILL AND HANG YOUR FEEDER. ONCE COMPLETELY COOL, POUR THE NECTAR INTO YOUR FEEDER AND HANG IT OUTSIDE FOR YOUR HUMMINGBIRDS TO ENJOY.
5. STORE THE EXTRA NECTAR. KEEP UNUSED HUMMINGBIRD FOOD COVERED IN THE REFRIGERATOR FOR UP TO 2 WEEKS. DISCARD IT SOONER IF IT BECOMES CLOUDY OR SHOWS ANY SIGNS OF SPOILAGE.

MY QUICK-COOLING TIP

WHEN I DON'T WANT TO WAIT FOR A FULL BATCH OF HUMMINGBIRD FOOD TO COOL, I USE HALF BOILING WATER AND HALF ICE.

FOR A 4-CUP BATCH, DISSOLVE THE 1 CUP OF SUGAR IN 2 CUPS OF BOILING WATER, STIRRING UNTIL COMPLETELY DISSOLVED. THEN ADD ENOUGH ICE TO BRING THE TOTAL WATER AMOUNT TO 4 CUPS.

ALLOW ANY REMAINING ICE TO MELT AND MAKE SURE THE NECTAR IS COMPLETELY COOL BEFORE ADDING IT TO THE FEEDER.

IT'S A SIMPLE WAY TO COOL THE HUMMINGBIRD FOOD QUICKLY WITHOUT WAITING FOR IT TO CHILL IN THE REFRIGERATOR OR FREEZER.

 SKIP THE RED DYE

DO NOT ADD RED FOOD COLORING OR DYE TO HOMEMADE HUMMINGBIRD FOOD.

HUMMINGBIRDS DON'T NEED RED-COLORED NECTAR TO FIND THEIR FOOD. A HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER WITH RED ACCENTS IS PLENTY TO ATTRACT THEIR ATTENTION.

KEEP THEIR NECTAR SIMPLE:

1 PART PLAIN WHITE SUGAR + 4 PARTS WATER. THAT'S IT.

IMPORTANT HUMMINGBIRD FOOD TIPS

USE PLAIN REFINED WHITE GRANULATED SUGAR FOR HUMMINGBIRD NECTAR. AVOID HONEY, BROWN SUGAR, POWDERED SUGAR, ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS, SYRUPS, OR SUGAR SUBSTITUTES.

ALWAYS START WITH A CLEAN FEEDER, AND DON'T SIMPLY KEEP TOPPING OFF OLD NECTAR. EMPTY AND CLEAN THE FEEDER BEFORE ADDING FRESH HUMMINGBIRD FOOD.

DURING HOT WEATHER, NECTAR CAN SPOIL QUICKLY, SO CHECK YOUR FEEDER FREQUENTLY AND REPLACE THE NECTAR WHENEVER IT BECOMES CLOUDY OR QUESTIONABLE.

