

# HUNGRY HUNGRY

# HUMMERS

## Nectar Refresh Schedule\*

2023

### WINTER

Change nectar & clean feeders once per week, on Mondays:

#### JANUARY

2 9 16 23 30  
□ □ □ □ □

#### FEBRUARY

6 13 20 27  
□ □ □ □

#### MARCH

6 13 20 27  
□ □ □ □

### SPRING

Change nectar & clean feeders every 3-4 days  
on Mondays & Fridays:

#### APRIL

3 7 10 14  
□ □ □ □  
17 21 24 28  
□ □ □ □

#### MAY

1 5 8 12  
□ □ □ □  
15 19 22 26 29  
□ □ □ □ □

#### JUNE

2 5 9 12  
□ □ □ □  
16 19 23 26 30  
□ □ □ □ □

### SUMMER

Change nectar & clean feeders every 3 days:

#### JULY

3 6 9 12 15  
□ □ □ □ □  
18 21 24 27 30  
□ □ □ □ □



#### AUGUST

2 5 8 11 14  
□ □ □ □ □  
17 20 23 26 29  
□ □ □ □ □

### FALL

Change nectar & clean feeders every 3-4 days  
on Mondays & Fridays:

#### SEPTEMBER

1 4 8 11  
□ □ □ □  
15 18 22 25 29  
□ □ □ □ □

#### OCTOBER

2 6 9 13  
□ □ □ □  
16 20 23 27 30  
□ □ □ □ □

#### NOVEMBER

3 6 10 13  
□ □ □ □  
17 20 24 27  
□ □ □ □

### WINTER

Change nectar & clean feeders once per week, on Mondays:

#### DECEMBER

4 11 18 25  
□ □ □ □



\*These guidelines are based on the climate in Victoria, BC, and are only meant to serve as a reminder. If you notice that the nectar is getting cloudy before the suggested change-date, do clean the feeder and refresh the nectar to ensure the hummers' good health!

## Hummingbird Nectar Recipe

- ✿ Boil 4 parts water with 1 part plain white granulated table sugar\* for 2 minutes
- ✿ Allow the mixture to cool, then fill your feeder(s) with just enough nectar to last a few days.
- ✿ Store leftover nectar in a clean container in the fridge for up to 10 days.

\*This water-to-white sugar ratio is the closest to the sucrose levels they find in nature.



### IMPORTANT:

- ⊘ Never use honey, sweeteners, molasses, brown or raw sugar
- ⊘ Don't add red food colouring or other products
- ⊘ In the winter, don't alter the recipe or allow feeders to freeze\*\*

\*\*When nectar freezes, the ice displaces the sugar, so the remaining syrup has a very high sugar concentration. In the wild, hummers can tolerate slightly higher amounts of sugar, as long as they have a dietary source of water. However, in freezing conditions, water sources may not be available.

### Tips to Keep Feeders Thawed in Winter

- ⊘ Keep feeder in a protected area, covered and out of the wind
- ⊘ Have a feeder indoors to swap out when the other begins to freeze
- ⊘ Wrap non-LED holiday lights around the glass column of inverted feeders
- ⊘ Place saucer feeders on a waterproof heat mat (sold for sprouting seedlings)
- ⊘ Invest in (or build) a hummingbird feeder heater



### REMEMBER:

- ✦ Clean feeders to prevent bacterial or fungal growth ~ at least once a week, and every 2-3 days in the summer.
- ✦ Every time a hummer sticks its tongue in, the nectar gets inoculated with microbes, which eat the sugar.

♥ Thank you for doing your part to help these tiny, speedy, feisty humming-gems to stay healthy & happy, so that we may continue to enjoy them year-round! ♥