



# Hummingbird Nectar

1:4 RATIO - CLOSEST TO THE SUGAR CONTENT IN FLOWER NECTAR

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## ALL YOU NEED

- GRANULATED WHITE SUGAR
- TAP WATER OR WELL WATER

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## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Boil 4 cups of water.
2. Remove from heat, stir in 1 cup of sugar until dissolved.
3. Let cool completely before pouring into feeders.

### Quick Measurement Reference

Water	Sugar
1 cup	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup
2 cups	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup
3 cups	$\frac{3}{4}$ cup
4 cups	1 cup
6 cups	$1\frac{1}{2}$ cups
8 cups ( $\frac{1}{2}$ gal.)	2 cups
16 cups (1 gal.)	4 cups



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## Why This Recipe Works

Most hummingbird-pollinated flowers contain about 20–23% sugar, the same as a 1:4 mix of white sugar to water. This balance gives hummers the quick energy they need without the dehydration, organ strain, or nutrient loss risks of stronger mixes.

## Do Not Use

- ❌ Red dye – Can be harmful and is unnecessary; feeder color is enough to attract.
- ❌ Honey – Ferments quickly and can promote dangerous mold.
- ❌ Brown/raw sugar – Contains excess minerals (especially iron) that can harm birds.
- ❌ Artificial sweeteners – No nutritional value for hummers.
- ❌ Distilled water – Hummers need trace minerals found in natural water sources.

## Feeder Cleaning

- Rinse all feeder parts with hot water and scrub with a brush.
- Avoid soap if possible; if needed, use a small amount of diluted Dawn and rinse thoroughly.
- In hot weather, sanitize weekly with a 1:10 bleach solution, rinse thoroughly, and air dry.

## Bonus Tip

Hang feeders in partial shade to keep nectar fresh longer, and place them near trees or shrubs so hummers have safe perches and escape routes. Plant native nectar-rich flowers like bee balm, trumpet vine, and salvia to attract more hummers naturally and give them additional nutrition.

*Compliments of hummer lovers at PetsBlogs!*

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