

Native Plants for Hummingbirds



Amelanchier alnifolia
Serviceberry, Saskatoon

Medium-sized shrub producing fragrant white flowers in late spring. Clusters of large white flowers range from drooping to erect. Each flower has 5 petals with 15 to 20 stamens each; size: 1-2.5 cm across. The serviceberries are eaten by woodpeckers, crows, chickadees, thrushes, towhees, bluebirds, waxwings, orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks, goldfinches, juncos, grouse, and pheasants.



Aquilegia formosa
Red Columbine

Delicate perennial with large nodding, star-shaped, spurred flowers that are a favorite of hummingbirds. Flowers have 5 long, straight red spurs with bulbous, glandular tips. Stamens and styles protrude from a central tuft. Each plant usually has 2-5 drooping flowers; primary color: red with yellow tinge. The flowers are often visited by hummingbirds. The seeds are eaten by sparrows, juncos, and finches.



Aruncus dioicus
Goat's Beard

Tall perennial herb topped with large feathery clusters of white flowers, grows from rhizomes and has multiple stems. Male and female flowers occur on separate plants. Flowers are densely packed in elongated terminal feathery clusters. Flower branchlets are spike-like. Each saucer-shaped flower is white to cream with petals to about 1 mm long.



Campanula rotundifolia
Harebell

Delicate stems topped by large, nodding bell-shaped blue flowers. Large, nodding bell-shaped blue or purplish-blue flowers (rarely white); sepals hairy at fused base with awl-shaped lobes; 5 fused petals. Flowers single several on thin, wiry stalks atop stem. Size: 1.5-3 cm (.6-1 in) long. Hummingbirds visit the campanula flowers.



Castilleja miniata
Red Paintbrush

An attractive wildflower with red brush-like flower clusters. Inconspicuous greenish flowers are concealed by several, showy bright red/scarlet bracts; bracts are sharp pointed, toothed, and hairy; calyx lobes are sharp pointed. Flower shape: tubular. Flowers provide nectar for hummingbirds.



Chamerion angustifolium

Fireweed

Tall perennial from rhizome like roots with unbranched stem and terminal spikes of large red to pink flowers.

Stalked, sepals 4, petals 4, stigma 4 lobed; several to many (15+) in long cluster atop stem; primary color: pink to red/purple; size: 2-4 cm (0.8-1.5 in) wide.

Attracts hummingbirds.



Dicentra formosa

Bleeding Heart

Hairless, soft stems and light green lacy leaves overtopped by small nodding clusters of pink heart-shaped flowers.

Pink to purplish heart shaped at base with 4 petals, outer 2 petals with short sac-like spur and spreading tip. 5-15 in drooping clusters atop stem.

The flowers attract hummingbirds.



Heuchera micrantha

Small-flowered Alumroot

Grows from rhizomes with one to many flower stems that are reddish and covered with fine hairs and topped with delicate panicles of tiny white flowers.

White to cream colored, small, numerous, on thin stalks in large open groups; 5 stamens.

Flowers attract hummingbirds.



Holodiscus discolor

Oceanspray

Multi-stemmed upright shrub with ridged young stems and arching older stems with peeling bark. White flowers.

Flowers are in dense terminal pyramidal cluster, 10-17 cm long; 5 white petals, 20 stamens, mostly 5 pistils, ovary is two-ovuled; flower clusters turn brown and remain on plants over winter; primary color: white to cream; size: 5 mm across.

During winter months, insect-eating birds such as chickadees and bushtits forage for insects in the shrub. The seeds persist through the winter.



Lonicera ciliosa

Orange Honeysuckle

Climbing vine with clusters of tubular bright orange flowers.

Flowers narrowly trumpet-shaped flaring to 5 lobes, bright orange; in whorls above end-pair disks at stem tips; can become purple when drying; size: 2-4 cm (.8-1.5 in) long.

Fruit eaten by grouse, pheasants, flickers, robins, thrushes, bluebirds, waxwings, grosbeaks, finches, and juncos. Hummingbirds visit the flowers.



Lonicera hispidula

Hairy Honeysuckle

Clambering vine with clusters of light purple tubular flowers.

Tubular flowers 1-2 cm long, pinkish-purple or rarely almost white.

Fruit eaten by grouse, pheasants, flickers, robins, thrushes, bluebirds, waxwings, grosbeaks, finches, and juncos.



Lonicera involucrata

Twinberry

Tall shrub with opposite leaves and pairs of small yellow flowers in leaf axils.

Tubular, yellow; in pairs with a greenish to maroon papery bract at base of each pair.

Flowers provide nectar for hummingbirds. Berries are eaten by various birds.



Lupinus polyphyllus

Large-leaved Lupine

A large perennial native forb with spikes of blue flowers from one to many hairy stems.

Shaped like a pea flower; flower stalks are short; primary color: bluish-purple, brown with age; vary from pale blue to dark violet or purple; occasionally all-white; arranged in spikes 12-28 inches long along upper section of main stem.

Seeds valuable food for game and song birds.



Oemleria cerasiformis

Indian Plum, Osoberry

Deciduous shrub producing clusters of white flowers in very early spring. One of the earliest plants to bloom.

Male and female plants can be on same or separate plants (monoecious or dioecious). Flowers have 5 petals and 15 stamens in 3 distinct series. Flowers hang in 5-10 cm long cluster from leaf axils; primary color: white above and paler green and waxy beneath; size: 1 cm across; shape: bell-shaped.

The berries are eaten by waxwings, robins, and other birds. Annas hummingbirds use the nectar in lowland areas.



Penstemon fruticosus

Lowbush Penstemon

Spreading shrub with numerous tubular purple flowers.

Large tubular purple flowers are produced in late spring or early summer, in spikes of 3-10 at tops of stems.

Hummingbirds visit the flowers.



Penstemon serrulatus

Coast Penstemon

Perennial, sprawling sub-shrub from a woody stem base, with large purple tubular flowers at stem tips.

Hairless, deep blue to dark purple tubular flowers on short stalks in 1 to several compact clusters at stem tips; 4 fertile stamens; size: 17-25 mm long.



Ribes lacustre

Black Gooseberry

Erect to spreading shrub with spiny stems.

Small, saucer-shaped, reddish to maroon, in drooping clusters of 7-15 flowers. Ovary is glandular-hairy.

Towhees, waxwings, woodpeckers, and grouse eat the fruit on or off the stem.



Ribes sanguineum

Red Flowering Currant

Erect, multi-stemmed shrub with showy clusters of deep pink flowers in early spring.

In erect or drooping clusters of 10-20 flowers; pale pink to deep red; size: 3-10 mm long; shape: tubular. Flowers appear just prior to leaf emergence.

The berries are eaten by grouse, pheasants, robins, towhees, thrushes, waxwings, sparrows, jays, and woodpeckers. Several hummingbirds consume the nectar.



Rubus spectabilis

Salmonberry

Erect and branching shrub with early spring pink flowers and reddish-orange raspberry-like fruits. 1-2 or even 4 on short branches; primary color: pink to red to reddish-purple (magenta); size: 2-4 cm; shape: circular, 5 petaled.

Fruits eaten by grouse, pheasants, robins, orioles, thrushes, tanagers, finches, wrens, bushtits, quail, and towhees. One of the first blooming plants visited by hummingbirds.



Sambucus racemosa

Red Elderberry

Shrub to small tree with clusters of small white flowers and red berries.

Pyramidal clusters of small creamy-white flowers with an unpleasant odor.

Fruits eaten by many birds - sparrows, thrushes, warblers, bluebirds, jays, tanagers, grosbeaks, sapsuckers, woodpeckers, and band-tailed pigeons.



Stachys cooleyae

Cooley's Hedge Nettle

Perennial from rhizomes.

Several to many in open terminal cluster; hairy, stalkless; sepals united in a tube with 5 spine-tipped lobes; petals fused into a two-lipped tube, the lower lip is 3-lobed; 4 stamens; 4-lobed ovary; primary color: deep red to purple; size: 23-40 mm long; shape: tubular.

The showy, bright tubular flowers and frequently visited by several species of hummingbirds.



Symphoricarpos albus

Snowberry

Erect shrub with attractive white berries that persist through the winter.

Flowers are arranged in small, dense clusters along a raceme or spike; primary color: pink to white; size: 5-7 mm long; shape: bell-shaped.

The berries are eaten by grosbeaks, waxwings, robins, thrushes, towhees, grouse, pheasants, and quails when other food sources are scarce.



Vaccinium ovatum

Evergreen huckleberry

Bushy shrub with small shiny green evergreen leaves and small clusters of pink bell-shaped flowers.

In small clusters along branches; flowers are bell-shaped, pink, to 8 mm long.

Birds eat the berries.