What's that humming sound? If you have the right plants, it could be the wings of a Ruby-throated hummingbird in your yard!

**Description**
Tiny (3 ½") with needle-like bill. Metallic green above, white below; male has brilliant, iridescent red throat. Female & Immature male lacks red throat.

**Habitat**
Suburban gardens, parks, and woodlands

**Food**
Insects and nectar from plants.

**Water**
Spray mister 10-12 feet from cover (small tree); Cup-Plant, *Silphium perfoliatum*, is a natural water option.

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**Ohio Native Plants**

**“home-grown” hummingbird food**

**Perennial Wildflowers**
- **Wild Columbine**, *Aquilegia canadensis*, 1-3’, spring, red flowers, re-seeds itself
- **Foxglove/Smokey Penstemon**, *Penstemon digitalis/calycosia*, 2-3’, June, purple/white-lavender, full-part sun/woodland species
- **Cardinal Flower**, *Lobelia cardinalis*, 1-3’
- July-Aug, tubular-shaped flowers are red
- **Great Blue Lobelia**, *Lobelia siphilitica*, 1-3’, Aug-Sept, blue flower spikes, needs well-drained soils, more hardy than cardinalis
- **Cup-Plant**, *Silphium perfoliatum*, 6-12’, yellow, Tall, adaptable, leaves hold rainwater for hummingbirds
- **Cinnamon Fern**, *Osmunda cinnamomea*, 3-4’, shade

**Vines and Groundcover**
- **Trumpet (or Scarlet or Coral) Honeysuckle**, *Lonicera sempervirens*, 10-20’, Spring, Trainable vine with showy trumpet-like red flowers
- **Trumpet Creeper**, *Campsis radicans*, 30-40’, Aggressive vine with orange-red flowers

**Small Trees / Shrubs (15’-49’)**
- **Downy Serviceberry** *(Juneberry)*, *Amelanchier arborea*, 15-25’, Tolerates sun or shade and wet soils; red berries, white flower
- **Eastern Redbud**, *Cercis canadensis*, 20-30’, full sun or light shade, pink spring flower
- **Hop Tree (Wafer-Ash)**, *Ptelea trifoliata*, 15-20’, Red-brown twigs, fragrant flowers
- **Washington Hawthorn**, *Crataegus phaenopyrum*, 25-35’, Has 1-3” thorns, white spring flowers and red fruits

**Tall Trees (50’-100’+)**
- **Tuliptree**, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, 70-90’, Fast grower; fertile soil, yellow-orange flower
- **Wild Black Cherry**, *Prunus serotina*, 50-60’, variety of soils, white flower

**Tip**: Reduce or eliminate chemical pesticides which poison insects the hummingbird eats.

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**Sources:**
www.enature.com
OSU Franklin Co. Extension
Sally Roth, Attracting Butterflies and Hummingbirds

www.backyardhabitat.info