



Select plants to attract migrant hummingbirds

Dr. Gary R. Bachman MSU Extension Service



It is officially spring, so we can start to get serious about our gardens and landscapes. But this is also the time we enjoy the annual, northward migration of hummingbirds. That means we need to start thinking about plants that will attract hummingbirds to our landscapes. Every spring, I get asked what kinds of plants a person should grow to attract these visitors to the garden.

Flower shape is important, and by far, plants with tubular flowers are most important. Tubular flowers have the characteristic of being able to hold quite a bit of nectar.

This is part of Mother Nature's grand plan. Nectar is simply sugar water produced by the plant, and it can be thought of as an energy drink for hummingbirds. As hummingbirds use their bills to probe for nectar, they pick up pollen and transfer it to the next flower visited. Here are some of my favorite plants with tubular flowers that attract hummingbirds to my landscape. These will also work for your Mississippi gardens. Lantana produces clusters of small, individual flowers that hummingbirds absolutely love. It is available in a wide variety of color combinations that will look great in your landscape.

Salvia is also a hummingbird magnet, and it has the distinction of being one of my garden landscape must-haves. Both the annual and perennial salvia selections have a wide range of tubular flowers that hummingbirds love. The big flower heads of pentas have the power to draw hummingbirds to your yard. Clusters of small, individual, five-petal flowers cover these plants all summer long. Probably my all-time favorite but really, aren't they all my favorites? -- must be Vermillionaire cuphea. This Mississippi Medallion winner produces abundant, fiery-hot yellow, red and orange tubular flowers all over the entire plant, making a mound of blooms all summer long. Hummingbird love them.

There are times when the landscape is not producing many flowers and it's beneficial to have hummingbird feeders hanging in the garden. There are many types and styles of feeders from which to choose. The feeder selection is up to the individual gardener, but there is only one kind of food for hummingbirds. You can buy premixed food, but it's easy to make your own. All you need to do is mix four parts of water with one part of white sugar. Bring it to a boil and allow to cool before filling your feeders. Some people think using honey or brown sugar would be a healthier choice, but these sugar sources can be harmful to the hummingbirds. Be sure to change the sugar solution every two or three days to avoid any bacterial growth that can occur in the feeders.

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Save the Dates

4-H District Shoot Deadline
April 8th, 2022
For more information
Contact the Extension office
At 601-656-4011.

Kitchen Science Interest Meeting
May 3, at 5:30, Coliseum.



This office
will be closed on
Friday,
April 15, 2022,
in observance of
Good Friday.



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and upcoming events!

Do you have Brown, Round patches in your lawn?

You will see this in the Spring and fall, when turf is emerging from or entering dormancy. On cool nights and warm days with rain and heavy dews with all warm season turfgrasses, including St. Augustinegrass, centipedegrass, bermudagrass, and zoysiagrass.



Large patch is the most common lawn disease in Mississippi during the spring and fall. It is characterized by circular patches with brown or smoky gray outer edges. The circular patches may continue to grow to 20 feet or more in diameter and may intersect other patches, creating complex patterns. In larger patches, the inside of the patch may begin to turn green again. The patches often occur at the same location year after year, usually in low areas or where dew or moisture stays for longer periods, such as shaded areas.

This disease is caused by a fungus, *Rhizoctonia solani*, which also causes diseases of many agricultural and horticultural crops. The fungus is a weak pathogen of warm season turfgrasses, attacking them during emergence from or entering winter dormancy, when they are at their weakest. Therefore, large patch of St. Augustinegrass, centipedegrass, bermudagrass, and zoysiagrass (warm-season turfgrasses) is most common in the spring and fall, and is usually not active during the summer, when the warm-season turfgrasses grow best. This disease has been called many names, including “large patch,” “large brown patch,” “brown patch,” and “Rhizoctonia brown patch.”

Prevention is the best method of disease control. To prevent large patch or other lawn diseases from developing, practice the following disease-control procedures:

- Use varieties adapted for your area.
- Manage your lawn properly by using recommended practices for watering, mowing, fertilizing, and removing thatch.
- Too much nitrogen fertilizer (water-soluble nitrogen sources) promotes a lush turf that is readily attacked by many plant diseases, including large patch. Because of television advertising campaigns, many fertilize their lawn too early and are encouraging the large patch disease. See P1322 Establish and Manage Your Home Lawn for more guidance on fertility and fertilization, but a general rule of thumb is that you should not fertilize until you have mowed your warm-season turfgrass lawn at least twice. Earlier fertilization will feed more weeds than grass, and make large patch worse.
- Watering late in the afternoon or mid-morning lets the grass remain wet for long periods of time, encouraging disease development. Water infrequently and deeply at times that do not extend the leaf wetness period.
- Thatch is the buildup of grass and plant debris in the root and crown areas of the turf. Too much thatch creates a favorable environment for the growth of many disease-causing fungi and, at the same time, an unfavorable environment for turf plants. Thatch gives the lawn a spongy feeling. If you can wiggle your finger through more than a half-inch of grass before contacting the soil, you probably have too much thatch. Thatch is most common in Zoysiagrass but can occur in most turf-types. Large patch is typically a disease that occurs in the spring and fall but has been observed as late as mid-July in overwatered, heavily thatched St. Augustinegrass lawns.
- If your lawn has a history of large patch, then you should be proactive in preventing its development.

Avoid food-borne illness, handle Easter eggs properly



Eggs are a traditional part of Easter décor and celebrations, and it is risky to eat or use these hard-boiled eggs for recipes after the festivities are over. Fran Brock, a family and consumer science agent with the Mississippi State University Extension Service in Oktibbeha County, said the best practice is to discard hard-boiled eggs used for Easter decorations or hunts. “We don’t recommend eating eggs that have been used for hunting or display,” Brock said. “Hunts usually take place outside, and you don’t want to eat eggs that have been lying on the ground or in other areas that may be contaminated with bacteria or chemicals.

Bacteria can easily contaminate the egg, especially if the shell is cracked.” Eggs used for display will likely exceed the two-hour limit for being out of refrigeration. However, if people insist on eating their Easter eggs, it is important to observe some safe handling guidelines. “Eggs must be hidden and hunted within two hours to reduce the risk of food poisoning,” she said. “Keeping eggs out of refrigeration for longer than two hours can allow bacteria to multiply. Hidden eggs should be protected from dirt, pets, birds, insects and other sources of bacteria.” Once the hunt is over, check the eggs for cracks before returning them to the refrigerator. Throw away any eggs that are cracked. Eat the remaining eggs within seven days.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service also recommends washing the hunted eggs before returning them to the refrigerator. Even if a hunt takes place indoors, eggs can still pick up dangerous bacteria. Hard-boiled eggs are more susceptible than fresh eggs to bacterial contamination because boiling removes the naturally occurring protective outer layer on the shell. Eggs used for hunting are also handled a lot, which increases the risk of bacterial contamination even more. Always follow basic food safety guidelines when decorating eggs that will later be eaten. Wash hands, utensils and surfaces before, during and after cooking and decorating eggs. Also, use a food-safe dye for coloring the eggs. Plastic, wooden and paper eggs are three alternatives to hard-boiled eggs. “You can put money and candy inside plastic eggs, and those things will be protected from the elements and bacteria if you hide and hunt eggs outside,” Brock said. “Wooden and paper eggs can be used if you do this activity indoors. These eggs are more expensive, but you can also paint and decorate them easily.”

 A banner for the Mississippi 4-H 4-H Summer Camp. The text "Mississippi 4-H" is at the top, "4-H Summer Camp" is in the middle, and "Explore" is at the bottom. The background features three photos: children sitting around a campfire, children playing in a field, and children in a canoe on a river.

Mississippi 4-H
4-H Summer Camp
Explore

June 13-16, 2022 🍀 Lake Tiak O’Khata, Winston County 🍀 Junior 4-H’ers 8-13

Registration Deadline May 13, For more Information call Neshoba Extension Office at 601-656-4011



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Fire Ants

Fire Ants can run but they can't hide when you treat your Home Lawn! It is time to start thinking about treating your home lawn for FIRE ANTS and get on a schedule to help reduce the populations.

Use these holidays as reminders to apply bait:

- Easter
- Independence Day
- Labor Day



Using granular baits is an easy, inexpensive way to reduce the number of mounds on your property. To read more on this use the QR code hereto find our publication on this topic for you to learn more.

32 CREELMAN ST DORMAN HALL GREENHOUSES

It's time to get planting!

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HORTICULTURE CLUB Spring Sale

TELL
YOUR
FRIENDS!



FLOWERS

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Geranium...



HOUSE PLANTS

Succulents,
Peperomia, Aloe...



VEGETABLES

Herbs, Tomatoes,
Cilantro, Jalepenos...

Friday, April 8th 8 am-5:30pm
Saturday, April 9th 8 am-1:00pm

(AT GREENHOUSES BEHIND DORMAN HALL)

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Are you thinking of selling food items from your home kitchen? Mississippi's Cottage Food Law allows certain food items to be prepared and sold from home kitchens without getting a permit from the Mississippi State Department of Health.

Here are some of the main questions we get:

- What food products CAN be made and sold under this law?
- What food products CANNOT be made and sold under this law?
- Where can cottage food items be sold?
- What permits, licenses, or food safety training do I need?
- How much product can I sell?
- Do I have to label my products?
- How do I store my products?
- Is there a regulatory agency?

We answer all of these questions and more in our latest blog post: <http://ow.ly/GEYe50Infwg>

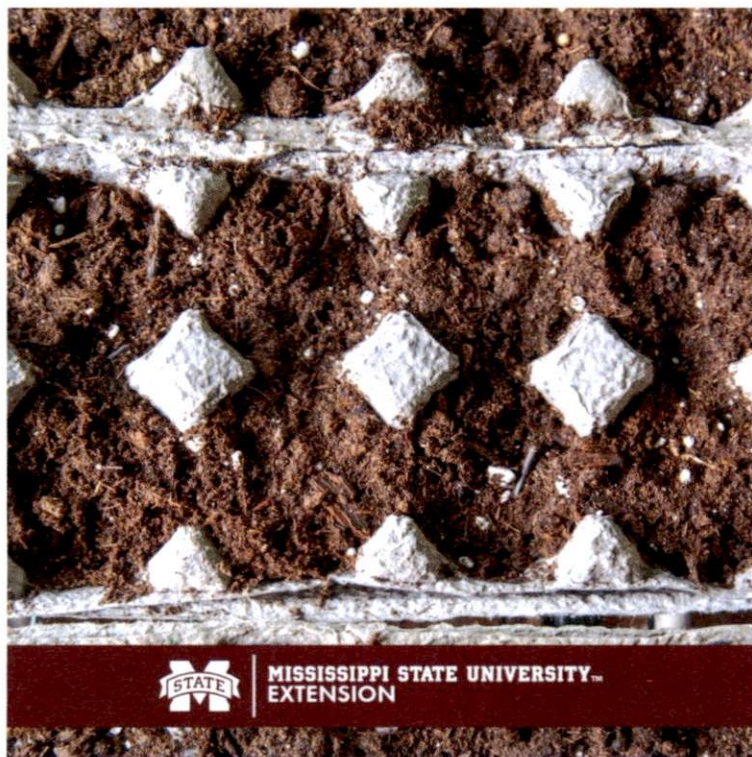
The most common myth surrounding honey is that it eventually expires like most foods! People look at the change of color and crystallization and assume it has gone bad. However, honey is safe to eat indefinitely as long as it's stored and handled properly. Proper storage of honey is crucial to its appearance and taste.

- 🍯 Store honey in a cool, dry area in an air-tight container.
- 🍯 Avoid storing it in direct sunlight or near heat-producing appliances, like the oven.
- 🍯 Always use clean utensils when dipping into the container. This helps keep bacteria, yeasts, and molds from being introduced into the honey and growing.

Over time, honey can eventually darken and crystallize. If your honey looks cloudy, that means it's starting to crystallize. If you store honey in the refrigerator, you will likely see it crystallize faster. So, what do you do if your honey has crystallized? Simply place the bottle in warm water and stir until the crystals dissolve. If you notice a sell by date on honey, the manufacturer is saying the store must sell the product by this date. This date is used as a timeline for the store to sell the product. It is not an expiration date. If stored and handled properly, the honey can be used for decades to come!



🍯 Honey can go bad if it's not stored and handled properly. If your honey foams or smells like alcohol, it's best to throw it out. BLOG POST: <http://ow.ly/U3z250Iu5Mb> #EatWithExtension #MSUext



Planting Seeds Inside!

Start seeds indoors for spring planting now! Using cardboard egg cartons is a great option to grow transplants because they are biodegradable + easy to grow in. Follow these steps:

- 🌱 Cut the lid off the carton and poke a few drainage holes in each egg cup.
- 🌱 Add soil into each egg cup and place the seeds inside.
- 🌱 Position your cartons on a tray or in a shallow pan to catch draining water.
- 🌱 Place the cartons in a sunny window and be sure to water daily. The soil should always be moist. If you don't have a sunny window to put your seeds in, try using a LED light.
- 🌱 When the seeds have sprouted, cut the egg cups apart, and put them directly into the ground. (Remember that cardboard egg cartons are biodegradable!)

You can use this technique for tomatoes, tomatillos, peppers, eggplant, marigolds and more.

🍯 Access more resources + a video tutorial here: <http://ow.ly/rBpn50I67Wu> #GrowWithExtension #MSUext



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Adult azalea lace bug



Stippled leaves are an early sign of lace bug infestations.

What is the Azalea Lace Bug? Azalea lace bugs are the most common insect problem of azaleas. Adults are about 1/8 in. long with broad lacy wings, while the wingless nymphs are covered with spines. Lace bugs feed by sucking sap from the undersides of the leaves, causing affected leaves to have a stippled appearance. Infested shrubs have a bleached out appearance which progresses to bronzing with heavy or prolonged infestations. Because lace bugs overwinter (spend the winter) as eggs inserted into plant tissue, you may not see live insects on infested plants in the winter months, but the dark fecal deposits they leave on the undersides of leaves remain as a definite sign of lace bug infestation.

How do you control Azalea Lace Bugs? For fast-acting control of heavy lace bug infestations, spray with a foliar applied systemic insecticide such as acephate (Bonide Systemic Insect Control) or imidacloprid + cyfluthrin (Bayer Complete Insect Killer). For long-lasting preventive control use a soil-applied systemic treatment such as imidacloprid (Bayer Tree and Shrub Insect Control) or dinotefuran (Greenlight Tree and Shrub Insect Control). For best control of heavy infestations, apply a foliar spray of acephate and a soil treatment of imidacloprid or dinotefuran. ng blooming bulbs and shrubs!

April Garden Checklist

- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after blooming.
- Plant summer annuals.
- Lightly shear formal hedges to remove new growth.
- Divide perennials.
- Plant summer and fall blooming bulbs.
- Plant okra, melons, peas, corn, beans, eggplant, cucumbers, and tomatoes.

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Hanging baskets are ideal for small, colorful spaces like a patio or porch, and they also take advantage of available growing spaces and are easy-care additions to the home landscape.





The Main goal of spring deworming is to reduce parasite contamination of pastures. Use the right product at the right time in the right animal.

Spring Deworming

Carla L. Huston, DVM, PhD, ACVPM

The warm weather and green grass that are finally appearing across the southern US means that we should be thinking about protecting our cattle on pasture. Deworming cattle has consistently been proven to have health and growth benefits in cattle when done properly. However, many factors should be considered when implementing an internal parasite control program such as type of cattle and pasture management. The timing of deworming can also affect the effectiveness of our program. Given the cost of many available deworming products, we must be sure that we are deworming our cattle most effectively and not wasting our money. Below are a few factors to consider when developing your spring deworming program:

Parasites of concern will vary depending on where you live and how you manage your cattle.

- The major groups of internal parasites affecting cattle are intestinal roundworms, lungworms, liver flukes and coccidia. External parasites (ectoparasites) include lice, horn flies, and ticks. For most of us in the southeast, fly control at this time of year will be critical and necessary to prevent later growth losses and diseases such as pinkeye, anaplasmosis and BLV.

- The lifecycle of the parasite will determine which products you use, and when. In the southern US, some stages of parasites become dormant in the hot summer. Therefore, we often see high parasite contamination of pastures in the winter and spring, which is why our spring deworming is so critical. Consult your veterinarian for assistance in determining your operation's biggest parasite risks.

- Animals are susceptible to different parasites at different stages of life. Younger cattle are particularly susceptible to intestinal roundworms and coccidia. Adult cattle develop an immunity to many of the common parasites; however, proper deworming is necessary keep to the internal worm burden low and to prevent pasture contamination. Adult cows can pass some of this immunity to their calves through colostrum, but the immunity is not long-lasting.

- Most of a parasite's lifecycle is spent on pasture rather than inside the animal itself. Therefore, cattle grazing forages are continuously exposed to parasites. The amount of grazing and the number of times cattle are moved to new pastures may affect the type and frequency of deworming. For this reason, one of the major goals of a good spring deworming program should be to reduce pasture contamination. Deworming should be timed to coincide with the moving of animals to help keep the new pasture clean from parasites and reduce parasite buildup.

- Deworming at weaning when animals are moved to new pastures can not only reduce pasture contamination but may affect the calf's immunity. Heavily parasitized calves will not get the proper nutrition necessary to develop good immunity.

Not all dewormers are the same.

- Dewormers contain anti-parasitic drugs which have variable activity. Some products are very specific, and some very broad-spectrum. Therefore, products will vary in their ability to kill immature and mature stages of the parasite.

- Efficacy should be the major consideration in choosing a dewormer. Your veterinarian can help you sort out the efficacy of the various products.

- In addition to the spectrum of activity, know the persistence of the dewormer that you are using. Some products continue protecting against parasites days to weeks after administration, while others have a one-time, immediate anti-parasitic effect. Spectrum of activity can be important when looking at pasture decontamination strategies.

- Deworming products have different routes of administration, each with benefits and drawbacks. Products are available as injections, pour-ons, feed additives, feed blocks, oral boluses, liquids, and pastes.

- Different formulations require different dosages. Be sure to deworm your cattle according to their weight. Under dosing cattle will affect the product's efficacy and can lead to parasite resistance.

- The safety of deworming products will vary. Don't forget about the safety of the workers and consider the ability to restrain cattle to administer a product properly and safely.

- Given the different types of parasites and their variable mechanisms of action, the type of dewormer used should be rotated by season or by year, depending on your pasture management system.

Remember that a proper deworming program will result in increased gains and heavier calves – and will usually pay for itself in the long run. You want a product that is efficacious, convenient, or easy to administer, and at a competitive price. Talk to your veterinarian or extension livestock specialist about the parasites most important for your cattle and value of spring deworming in your herd.

BEEF UNIT FIELD DAY



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APRIL 23, 2022

- 8:30 AM Registration
- 8:45 AM Welcome and Beef Unit Overview
- 9:15 AM Research Overviews and Demonstrations
- Fetal Programming
 - Hair Shedding
 - Stocker Cattle Health
 - Precision Livestock Management
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:00 PM South Farm Tour

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