

# Hummingbird Container Garden: The Ultimate Nursery Checklist

## Phase 1: Hardware & Soil (Building the Foundation)

- **Large Containers:** Opt for 14–16 inch deep pots. (Avoid 10-inch baskets that bake roots during summer heat waves).
- **Self-Watering Tools:** Pick up terracotta 'Oya' reservoirs or self-watering inserts to create a cooling micro-climate.
- **Smart Irrigation:** Solar-powered drip kit (crucial for maintaining a steady nectar supply in hanging baskets).
- **High-Quality Soil:** Peat-free potting mix blended with coconut coir for maximum moisture retention.
- **Root Booster:** Mycorrhizal fungi additive to build resilient root systems.

## Phase 2: Plant Selection (The Nectar Menu)

- **Tubular Bloomers:** *Salvia* (great for sun) or *Fuchsia* (perfect for part shade).
- **High-UV Fillers:** *Cuphea* (Vermillionaire) or *Supertunia* for continuous summer blooming.
- **Hardiness Check:** If buying perennials (like *Bee Balm* or *Cardinal Flower*), verify they match your local Natural Resources Canada Hardiness Zone.
- **Quality Control:** Check for white, healthy roots and fresh growth. Avoid plants with dark, circling root masses.
- **Avoid:** "Double flowers" (which block a hummingbird's beak) and generic "pollinator-friendly" tags without specific cultivar names.

## Phase 3: Ecosystem Essentials (Beyond the Sugar)

- **Water Feature:** A small mister or a shallow water dish.
- **Natural Trellis:** Twiggy stems or a small frame for perching and resting.
- **Commitment:** Leave the broad-spectrum insecticidal soap on the shelf! (Remember: soft-bodied insects are essential protein for nesting hummingbirds).