

# Bird Friendly Native Plant of the Month

2015

NC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

REEDY CREEK NATURE PRESERVE



*Hummingbird*

*Photos by Will Stuart*

## *Bignonia capreolata* Cross-Vine

### Cross-Vine attracts hummingbirds during migration

Cross-vine is a semievergreen woody vine with orange and yellow flowers blooming heavily in midspring and intermittently into fall. It performs best on a sturdy support such as a fence, trellis or tall tree such as Oak, attaching with tendrils but can also cling delicately to a brick wall. Cross-vine can be vigorous, so care should be taken in choosing a site where the vine can be contained both vertically and horizontally.

Vines like to have cool, mulched feet and reach toward the sun. It can be used as a ground cover. Cross-vine blooms best in full sun, but can take some shade. Hummingbirds love the flowers, and the early to

mid spring bloom time helps hummingbirds as they migrate. Dr. Larry Mellichamp recommends 'Dragon Lady' and 'Tangerine Beauty' as cultivars.

### What else can I plant to attract hummers?

Hummingbirds are attracted to flowers with a tubular shape. Many native plants are easy to grow in the home garden:

- *Campsis radicans* Trumpet Creeper
- *Mondarda dydima* Beebalm
- *Aquilegia canadensis* Red Columbine
- *Lonicera sempervirens* Trumpet Honeysuckle
- *Lobelia Cardinalis* Cardinal

Flower

- *Spigelia marilandica* Indian Pink
- *Aesculus pavia* Red Buckeye

- *Rhododendron catawbiense* Catawba Rhododendron

### Make your yard bird friendly:

- Provide water source
- Provide diverse shelter
- Provide diverse nectar, berry and seed sources
- Provide larval hosts plants

### Find out More!

Visit these sites for more info:

- [ncwildflower.org](http://ncwildflower.org)
- [ncaudubonblog.org/tag/native-plant-profile](http://ncaudubonblog.org/tag/native-plant-profile)
- [wildflower.org/plants](http://wildflower.org/plants)

Bird Friendly Native Plant of the Month is a joint effort of the NC Native Plant Society and Audubon North Carolina

