Cardinals

Today on Gardening in a Minute: cardinals.

Cardinals are a familiar sight in gardens, and are one of the most well-known songbirds. The brilliant red feathers of the male cardinal make them easy to spot. Female cardinals are more subtle, with rosy brown coloring.

Cardinals like to feed at stationary 4 to 6 foot tall feeders, and they prefer black-oiled sunflower seeds. They feed most often in the morning.

Cardinals prefer their surroundings to have a mixture of evergreen and deciduous trees. They will often nest in shrubs or thickets that face an open lawn. Recommended plants for nesting and foraging include beautyberry, wax myrtle, grape, and hawthorn.

Be sure to create a place for cardinals in your garden, and since they don’t migrate, you could have them around to enjoy for many years.

For more about birds and many other gardening topics, contact your county extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.