

Simple forms of Bird Feeders and Ingredients

Fat based mixture.

Mix based upon use in some form of container- often very small plastic pill cups or cut down drinking cups- or as a ball, preferably in netting. They have string or strong wool threaded to allow hanging, but balls can also be lodged in tree branches or crevices, thus helping larger birds to access.

Two different mixes used. One with small contents and the other with larger contents. Both use lard or suet as the base.

Small content mix uses nyger seed, grass seed, finely chopped nuts and chopped dry mealworm. Mix may be placed into a partly scooped out apple. Cones often used because mix can be pressed between the open scales.

Large content mix uses whole peanuts, other partly chopped nuts, sunflower with shells, sunflower kernels, whole meal worms, and some nyger seeds if available. Other common ingredients used are finely chopped unsalted bacon/bacon fat, cooked potato, grated unsalted cheese, crumbled pastry, dried raisins and sultanas, and cooked rice without any added salt.

Typical ingredient quantities for a dedicated feeding family are:

2kg lard or suet

100g Nyger seed

100g grass seed

100g meal worm

150g chopped nuts

200-300g peanuts

100g sunflower seeds with shells,

400g sunflower kernels

Fallen apples halved and partly scooped out, to form containers.

Quantities can be proportionally scaled down.

Fruit and vegetable based feeders

Usually strung in kebab style on string or strong wool, for hanging. Large eyed needles used. Shallow containers are an alternative method but they must be securely positioned.

Ingredients purchased or obtained:

1 pkt cranberries

1 pkt grapes, white

8 carrots,

Fallen apples for slicing

Badly bruised or decaying fruit- pears, quince, plumb, banana, pomegranate- for slicing

Larger dried fruit