

Woodlands Nurseries

Crooklands ● Milnthorpe ● Cumbria ● LA7 7NJ
T: 015395 67273 ● F: 015395 67850
E: sales@woodlandsgardencentre.com



Making bird cake!

When	Autumn – it will take about 20 minutes
What you need	Shredded suet (however much you are using you will need an equal amount of the following ingredients) Bird seed mix, Sunflower seeds, Fresh peanuts, Breadcrumbs, Dried fruit (chopped and soaked to prevent it expanding in the birds stomachs) Empty onion bag or bird feeder Glass bowl Saucepan Wooden spoon

About this project

During winter when food is scarce garden birds become increasingly reliant on us to supplement their diets. Making a bird feeder will encourage birds to become regular visitors to your garden. This will make children aware of the changing seasons, what birds eat during the year and give them an opportunity to watch birds more closely.

What to do

1. Weigh out the seed and any extra ingredients your children wish to include. Mix all the ingredients together except the suet.
2. Pour the same quantity of shredded suet into a saucepan and melt over a gentle heat. Always have an adult present on hand to help.
3. When the suet is liquid, turn off the heat. Pour the melted suet into a glass bowl.
4. Add the remaining ingredients that you have chosen and stir with a wooden spoon. The mixture should look quite sticky as this is what holds the mixture together once it has cooled.
5. Leave to cool for around 30 minutes, until it is cool enough to handle.
6. Take handfuls of the mixture and make into small balls.
7. Drop the balls into the empty onion net or your bird feeder. Press it together to make a big sausage.
8. Tie the end with string and hang from a branch in the branch of a tree in the garden, ideally somewhere they can see from inside your house.
9. Now your children can keep an eye on their bird feeder and see what comes to eat the bird cake.

Tips

- Don't put out loose whole peanuts in spring and summer as a whole peanut fed to a baby bird might choke it.
- Don't forget that birds will also appreciate a shallow bowl of water to drink and bathe in.

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- You can also leave out for the birds' stale biscuits and cake, bacon rind, breadcrumbs and peanuts in bird feeders.

