

How to make fat balls and bird feeders

Nothing could be easier than stirring up your own fat ball mix full of nutritious seeds and dried fruit for the birds and then making bird feeders to attract more birds into your garden.



Time to make: 30 minutes

Suitable for: all ages - young children will need to be supervised

You will need:

- Large Bowl
- Lard, suet or peanut butter
- Unsalted peanuts
- Currants
- Sultanas
- Oats
- Breadcrumbs
- Cake crumbs
- Grated cheese
- Dried Mealworms (you can get these from a pet shop)

Make your bird mix

Make sure the lard is at room temperature (don't melt it) and cut it into small pieces. Add the other ingredients to the bowl and mix them with your fingertips or a spoon. Squidge them together until the fat holds the mixture together.

Once you've got your mixture you can make different types of bird feeders to attract a variety of birds.

Pine Cone Feeders

Time to make: 30 minutes

Suitable for: all ages - young children will need to be supervised

You will need:

- Dried out pine cones
- Scissors
- String or copper wire

Attach wire or string to the cones

Attach a length of wire or string to the cones winding it round at the base



Hang the cones

Hang the finished cones from a branch in a secluded part of the garden. Watch from a distance and wait for the birds to arrive.

Moulded Bird Cake Mix



Time to make: 30 minutes

Suitable for: all ages - young children will need to be supervised

You will need:

- A plastic yoghurt pot
- String or twine
- Scissors
- An orange rind

Make a hole in the bottom of an old plastic pot such as a yoghurt pot and thread a piece of string or twine through leaving a long tail at either end.

Fill it with the fat and seed mix then leave it in the fridge to harden overnight.



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When the mixture is set, remove it from the pot and tie a big knot at one end of the string to secure the seed cake. Hang the cake from a tree or shrub then watch the birds enjoy their feast.



Orange Bird Feeder

This is a nice way to use up an orange that is past its best. Cut an orange in half and scoop out the fruit and pulp taking care not to tear the rind. Poke a hole in one side of each half and thread a piece of string or twine. Secure it with good knot.

Fill each orange half with bird cake mix and leave it to set in the fridge until it is hard. When it is set hang your orange halves up on a branch or a shrub and wait from a distance for the birds to arrive.

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