



# BIRD FEEDER

Bird feeders are a great way to find out more about your garden visitors and these homemade ones are inexpensive and super easy to make. Different seeds suit different birds, so have a think about what birds are in your area and what you would like to attract.





## Materials needed:



Bird seed mix

Pine cones

Lard chopped into cubes

String

Scissors

Mixing spoon





## 1. Tie string around the top of your pine cone

Make sure this is secure and long enough to tie the other end to a branch.



## 2. Melt the lard and mix in the seeds.

Use a microwave to melt the lard then add in the bird seed mixture until it starts to bind together, and no liquid lard can be seen. Remember, the mixture will need to set so it may not hold its shape at this point.



## 3. Fill your pine cone!

Time to get messy! Press your mixture into your pinecone, filling all the nooks and crannies. Place it in the fridge for at least 2 hours to set.





#### 4. Put outside for all the birds to enjoy

Find a good location to your bird feeder and tie it on as securely as possible. Things to consider are:

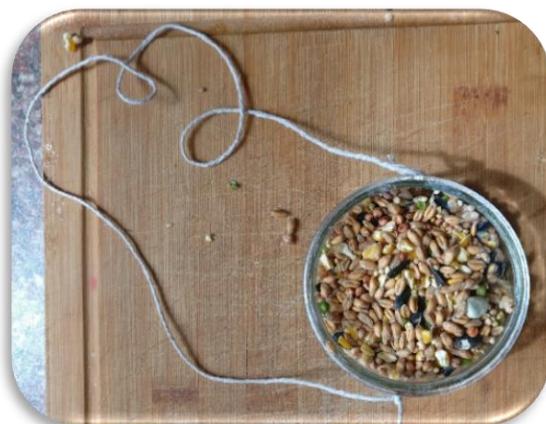
Is there shelter nearby? Birds are less likely to use a feeder if it is out in the open so hanging it from a branch is always a good idea.

Do you have cats in the garden? It is essential to place the bird feeder when the birds will be safe and not attract predators. Put it somewhere you can see it! Birds can be fascinating to watch; make sure you put your pinecone in a spot where you can sit back, relax and watch wildlife use your creation.



#### 5. Make more throughout the year!

Don't limit yourself to pinecones, feeders can be made from ramekins, tins, old tea cups and even toilet roll tubes - the possibilities are endless!





## Try this!

- Learn something new and buy an ID book or look online to find out what species are visiting your bird feeder. Keep a diary of how many you see of each and how many different species there are - you can submit wildlife sightings to Living Record.
- Add a bird bath to your garden - this doesn't have to be expensive; a deep oven tray will do.
- Make feeders out of different recycled materials and see if they attract different birds.
- Share your bird feeder on social media to encourage others to do the same! #NatureVolunteers

