

Timely Turf Tips

December 2011

Do You Know What Your Favorite Bird's Favorite Food Is? Feeding the birds is a rewarding and enjoyable hobby in the midst of chilly winter weather, and these easy winter bird feeding tips can help both novice and experienced backyard birders make the most of their feeders during the coldest months of the year.

The best foods to offer birds in colder weather have a high fat or oil content that will provide abundant energy for winter survival. Nutritious winter foods for birds include:

Black oil sunflower seeds - The favorite is sunflower. It attracts cardinals, woodpeckers, blue jays, goldfinches, purple finches, chickadees, titmice, and nuthatches.



Nyjer is the most popular seeds to feed goldfinches. You may have dozens of goldfinches visiting your nyjer feeder at once, which is quite a cheering sight on a winter day.

Safflower is a white seed, slightly smaller than black sunflower seed. Chickadees, titmice, cardinals and downy woodpeckers eat it. The great thing about safflower seeds is that squirrels don't like them. Neither do grackles, blue jays, or starlings. Try the golden organic safflower: it has no outer shell!

White Millet is the least expensive bird seed. Scatter it on the ground for sparrows, juncos & mourning doves.

Suet - Birds love suet. It's the solid fat rendered from beef. It provides concentrated energy to help birds make it through freezing winter days and nights. Woodpeckers, chickadees and nuthatches will devour suet.

Peanuts provide a nutritious diet for birds, including Black-capped chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, and Blue jays. Even Northern cardinals will come to a peanut feeder.

More Winter Bird Feeding Tips

- Clean off feeders, platforms and perches after each storm so seed is easily accessible.
- Add a heated birdbath to your backyard or place a safe heating element in a regular birdbath to provide birds with liquid water.
- Stamp or shovel snow around feeders to provide easier access to spilled seed for ground feeding birds.
- Leave nesting boxes and birdhouses up all year round to provide winter roosting sites.

Previous issues of Timely Turf Tips newsletters are available at our website: www.hugofeedmill.com

Free 3# of Hugo Cardinal Mix
With purchase of 50# sunflower seeds

1 coupon per customer. Expires 12/31/11

Hugo Feed Mill & Hardware

5582 146th St. N. Hugo, MN 55038 651-429-3361

20% OFF

All Bird Feeders (up to \$10)

1 coupon per customer. Expires 12/31/11

Hugo Feed Mill & Hardware

5582 146th St. N. Hugo, MN 55038 651-429-3361