

PREFERRED SEEDS

- Most desirable seeds are Sunflower: Whole Blacks, Hulled, Pieces, or Striped
- Nyjer Seed highly desirable, especially for Finches and Nuthatches
- Safflower desirable for birds such as Cardinals
- Fruits desirable for birds such as Orioles, Mockingbirds, Grosbeaks, Bluebirds
- Insects, such as mealworms desirable for Bluebirds, Robins, Chickadees, and Woodpeckers
- Peanuts and other nuts desirable for Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Jays, Chickadees, Mockingbirds

FILLER SEEDS

- Red and White Millet These are two of the more useful fillers, many birds like
- Cracked Corn May get kicked on ground, will not germinate
- Milo, Wheat, Oats, Grit Birds such as Jays, Doves, and Squirrels will eat these

READING TAGS

- Overall mix quality is determined by the various content and mixture of seeds
- Ingredients are listed in order of largest percent to smallest percent
- Many inexpensive mixes will have 3-4 ingredients, & are sprayed to mask dust & dirt, and are least-cost formulated
- An indication of least-cost is when generic terms for ingredients are used, such as "field seeds" or "grain products"
- When sprayed, an oil may be listed such as mineral oil, soy oil, etc.



Striped Sunflower



Black Oil Sunflower



Sunflower Pieces



Wild Bird

Food Preference Chart

American Goldfinch

Northern Cardinal

Evening Grosbeak
House Finch

Titmouse

Nuthatch

Pine Siskin

Chickadee

Blue Jay

Redpoll

Mourning Dove
Purple Finch

Red Bellied Woodpecker

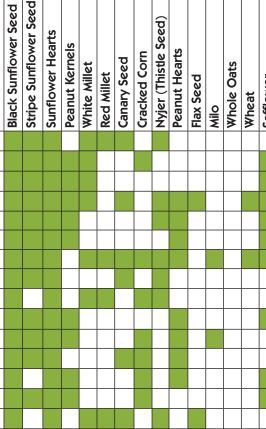
Hairy Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Nyjer Seed



Safflower





Peanuts



SUNFLOWER-SEED TUBE FEEDERS

- If you are going to put out just one feeder, this is your best choice!
- Hang the feeder at least five feet off the ground and try to position it near a window where you can enjoy the visitors
- Used by: Chickadees, Titmice, Nuthatches, Goldfinches, Siskins and Purple and House Finches



GROUND FEEDERS

- Simple screen-bottomed trays
- Typically sit several inches off the ground or your deck
- Should be placed in open areas at least 10 feet from the nearest tree or shrub to give birds a chance to flee predators.
- Doves, Juncos, Sparrows, Towhees, Goldfinches and Cardinals are all likely to visit ground feeders.
- Avoid using ground feeders if cats are likely to pounce from nearby shrubs.





SQUIRREL PROOF FEEDERS

- Squirrels are a notorious nuisance for birds and the people trying to feed them.
 These rascals have uncanny acrobatic abilities and a seemingly unstoppable determination.
- Exclude them: Placing feeders on a pole in an open area, at least five feet off the ground
- Place as far as possible from your house and nearby trees
- REMEMBER squirrels can jump as far as six feet
- Baffle them: Attach a baffle or deterrent to the feeder pole
- You can buy special squirrel baffles



NYJER FEEDER

- Especially designed to dispense thistle (Nyjer) seed and Finch mixes
- Have tiny holes that make the seed available only to small-beaked finches such as Goldfinches, Redpolls and Pine Siskins



HOPPER FEEDERS

- Hopper feeders keep several pounds of mixed seed dry and ready for hungry birds
- Will draw all the species that tube feeders attract, along with larger birds like Jays, Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds and Cardinals



OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A FEEDER

- Placement of the feeder-The location should have year round easy access, be out of the reach of squirrels, and in an area where bird droppings and seed shells won't be a concern.
- Durability-how the feeder is made and how long it will last
- Dry Seeds-Seeds spoil when they get damp. Look for feeders with drainage holes.
- Cleaning ease-Feeders need to be cleaned regularly to help prevent the spread of disease