



A30 Apple bird feeder



Provide hungry birds with food during the winter months by making your own bird feeder. Follow the instructions to make a simple but tasty feeder for our feathered friends. They will pay you back by helping to control a whole array of garden pests, including slugs and aphids (see A28).

Resources

- Apples
- Sunflower and/or pumpkin seeds
- Chopping board, knife and string

Activity

- 1 Follow the instructions on the next page, adapting as required.
- 2 Discuss the importance of providing food for birds and how they help organic gardeners.

Extended activity

- 1 Carry out research on the success of your feeder. Report your findings to parents and community groups at your garden events (see A2)
 - a How many birds visit in a day/week?
 - b Have you noticed the 'pecking order', ie which bird species feed first?
 - c Do the birds have a favourite feeding time?
- 2 Research other ways of feeding birds. What else could you make yourself?

Top tip



Waiting for uptake

If you have not put bird feeders out before, it may take several weeks to attract the birds into the garden. Once established, the birds will need a regular supply of food.

Health & Safety

As this requires the use of sharp tools younger children will need supervision and adult help.

See also Health and Safety Guidelines (Section B3.3)

Further information

A2 Organising a gardening day

A28 Friend and foe game

A29 Ladybird house

A31 Lacewing hotel

B5.10 Controlling pests and diseases

B5.11 Attracting wildlife

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds www.rspb.org.uk

Instructions for making an apple bird feeder

- 1** Slice the apple in half carefully, and remove the core to provide a channel to hold the string in place.
- 2** Insert the seeds into both halves of the apple with the pointed end first. Put in as many as possible.
- 3** On completion, tie a piece of string (approximately 70cm) around the apple to loop round it. Cut a small groove at the top and bottom of the apple in which you place the string to stop it sliding off. Secure knots at the top and bottom of the apple.
- 4** Hang it up in a tree or on a fence and observe the different species of birds it attracts.

