



Holidays are for the Birds!

Share your holiday decorating and winter celebrations with your wild feathered friends with these edible decorations for your trees and shrubs. Or, when January comes around, repurpose your holiday tree as a backyard bird shelter from those cold winter winds. Add the decorations and it will become a bird feeder as well!

Garlands of Seedhead Bundles and Repurposed Snacks

- Finches and other songbirds will love snacking on seedheads. Cut the tips from sideoats grama, prairie dropseed or other native grasses and tie them up in bundles with dried coneflower, black-eyed Susans and other native flowers.
- Cut chunks of leftover fruit – berries, melons, apples, grapes, citrus fruits – and let them sit out to dry. Save stale snacks such as mini-pretzels, cheerios and popped popcorn. Chunks of suet can be wrapped with twine to hang.
- Using a carpet needle and a piece of twine about 3 feet long, string the fruit, snacks and seedhead bundles, making occasional knots to space the items out. Make a large loop on each end to hang it up or use wooden clothespins.
- The birds will enjoy the snacks and in spring they can use the raffia or jute fibers when they build their nests.

Changeable Ice Windows

Gather together tiny pine-cones, pine branches, bits of grass, fruit and snack items listed above, and *Coles Special Feeder* birdseed. Place them in a disposable aluminum pie tin. Position a loop of twine so that part of it hangs outside the pan. Arrange the other items into a pleasing design and pour water over all of it. Freeze outside or in your freezer. Pop your ice window out of the pie tin and hang it outside where it will catch the sunlight. It will melt and refreeze, changing each day along with the weather and provide a surprise snack for the birds with the final thaw.

Bird-friendly Pinecone and Citrus Ornaments

For 7 – 8 Ornaments:

- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 cup shortening such as Crisco
- 3 cups yellow cornmeal

For 30 – 40 Ornaments:

- 40 oz. jar creamy peanut butter
- 1 ½ lbs. shortening
- 5 lbs. yellow cornmeal

5 lb. bag of *Coles Special Feeder* Birdseed

- Collect medium-sized pine cones and save the cup-shaped peels of oranges or lemons from making juice.
- Loop twine around the pine cones and thread twine through the citrus peel using a carpet needle.
- Mix ingredients together to make a paste. Smear the mixture onto the pine cones and fill the citrus cups about half-way up with the mixture. A big spoon makes a good tool, but we've found that fingers work best!
- Press birdseed into the sticky pinecones and citrus cups. Hang them up for a winter welcome for the birds!