

## Wild bird feeding tips

### When to feed:

It is now widely recognised that feeding wild birds all year round is key to continued survival of many native birds.

### Feeding Tips:

- Ideally, feed should be made available throughout the year, particularly during the breeding, nesting and fledging periods.
- Help reduce the risk of bacterial build up by having several feeding areas and moving them regularly.
- Consider different foods and feeding methods. Some birds can hang from feeders while others may prefer table or ground feeding.
- Always maintain a continuous supply of fresh food, as birds will come to depend on the food you put out.
- Only put out as much food as will be consumed in one to two days.
- Feeding areas should ideally be located near cover. If there is a risk from cats or predators, a greater distance or height should be allowed.
- Fresh, clean water should always be available.
- Food should be stored in a cool, dry place.

### Hygiene:

When feeding wild birds it is important to maintain a hygienic environment.

Ensure bird feeders are regularly cleaned with warm water and ideally a safe disinfectant.

Remove any wet or old food as soon as possible to avoid the build up of bacteria, moulds or toxins.

Wear gloves and wash your hands thoroughly after handling products.

### Why treat our garden birds?

Sir David Attenborough wrote: "It is easy to see why so many of us are fond of birds. They are lively; they are lovely; and they are everywhere.

"They have characters with which we can easily identify – cheeky and shy, gentle and vicious, faithful and faithless. Many enact the dramas of their lives in full view for all to see.

"They are part of our world, yet at a clap of our hands, they lift into the air and into the air and into their own with a facility that we can only envy.

"And they are an ever present link with the natural world that lies beyond our brick walls".

There is little wonder why it is that we encourage these friends into our gardens, no matter how small a bird, no matter how small a garden.

For a range of wild bird feeding products, visit [www.monarchgardens.co.uk](http://www.monarchgardens.co.uk)

