

# Hello Trees Resource Sheet

## What to do outdoors in Winter

### How to make a Winter Birdfeeder



One way to make a Winter birdfeeder is to use a Christmas wreath.

You will need:

- A peg, nail or twigs on which to hang a bird feeder.
- A ribbon or string to suspend your bird feeder.
- A Christmas wreath (or other stuff, see below).
- A large bowl for mixing lard with other ingredients.
- Lard, softened by being out of the fridge.
- Peanut butter, smooth or with bits.
- Any of the following loose ingredients:
  - bird seed;
  - sunflower seeds;
  - pumpkin seeds;
  - unsalted nuts;
  - dried fruit cut into small pieces;
  - apples or other fresh fruit cut small;
  - slices of orange;
  - mild cheddar cut into small pieces;
  - bread crumbs;
  - cooked rice.



1. Strip the wreath of beads, ribbons and any other artificial decoration.
2. Put the lard in the bowl.
3. Sprinkle a bit of each of the loose ingredients over the lard.
4. Squidge the loose ingredients into the lard with your hand to make a sticky mixture.
5. Spread peanut butter over a cone or two or over some foliage left on the wreath.
6. Spread the lard mixture in the same way.
7. Put a ribbon or string around the wreath so that you can hang it up.

You do not need a ready made wreath.

You can spread the mixture on bits of wood, bark ...

You can twist bits of plant into a ring, thread ivy through it, stick bits of bark into it or cones or sticks - anything on which to spread the bird food mixture and fix bits of fruit.



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I took our Christmas wreath down and stripped off the beads and bows but left the cones and foliage.

I kept the beads and bows to recreate a wreath for next Christmas.



I raided the kitchen cupboard for peanut butter, some dried fruits and out-of-date seeds and nuts. I took from the fridge the lard and mild cheddar I had bought especially for the bird feeder.



I liked the feel of squidding the loose ingredients into the lard.



I spread peanut butter on to a couple of cones and lard mixture on to the others.



I tied a ribbon around the wreath, tied a knot to make a loop and hung the bird feeder on a nail from which had hung a hanging basket in the summer.

When I turned the wreath upright, I found the mixture was on the bottom of some of the cones, not the top. I thought it might fall off, so I spread left-over mixture above the cones.



No birds came to eat the food on my feeder and then heavy rain washed off the lard mixture where I had spread it thickly.

I re-spread more thinly the remains of the lard mixture and moved the wreath to where birds could beneath it.

Lumps of mixture had fallen on the ground beneath the feeder.

Little mammals – or perhaps birds – must have eaten it because there was no sign of it next morning.

I do hope birds will come to enjoy their warming food!