

(2012-Dec-30)

BOGLE SEEDS

TIPS ON BIRD FEEDING

A. Common Feeds:

Mixtures are usually used to attract all species of seed eating native birds. These may contain the following seeds:

Sunflower:

Black/white Stripes variety: not as popular as the oil seed variety. Used to attract Blue Jays (and squirrels). Has lower oil content than the oil seed varieties.

Oil Seed Variety: preferred by finches, nuthatches, cardinals, grosbeaks, juncos, chickadees and doves

Sunflower Chips:

Sunflower seed without the hull. Often used on apartment balconies because of no messy hulls. Many birds love it. More expensive than straight sunflower.

Millet:

Grey, white or red. Millet is a required basic food for many song birds. Squirrels don't like millet.

Cracked corn:

Fine cracked corn attracts Blue Jays, chickadees, sparrows, morning doves and cardinals. Often gets a bad name if too much is in the mixture.

Precautions to be aware of in the following items:

Wheat:

Many mixes contain varying amounts of wheat. **BEWARE!** Birds will not eat wheat.

Milo or Sorghum:

This rusty coloured seed is also in abundance in most mixes. Few, if any, birds will eat this animal feed.

Peanuts:

More expensive mixes may contain peanuts or peanut pieces. Although they are loved by Blue Jays, they will attract hordes of squirrels. It should be noted that some pre-packaged peanut mixes may contain Malathion, a deadly insecticide, which is used to control insect infestation within the plastic bag. Bogle Seed products **do not** contain Malathion.

Bird Grit/Gravel:

This material is present in many mixes. Canadians don't need to be buying and selling gravel. Ontario fields, vacant lots and roadsides have lots to satisfy the most discriminating bird. You won't find this in Bogle Seed products.

PEPPER & CHILLI ADDITIVES: A WARNING! Sometimes these "harmless" spices are combined with "Squirrel Proof" bird seed. When asked about this, Barry Bogle had the following response: "I believe a steady diet of hot chilli pepper powder may be harmful to delicate bird digestive and ocular (visual) systems. Even the proponents of these additives warn consumers to '*wear protective gloves, avoid dust in the eyes and keep children away from treated seed products*'. You be the judge!"

B. Specialty Seeds:**Nyjer:**

A small black thistle seed imported from Burma or Ethiopia. Loved by many birds, but because of its cost, it is usually fed in a special feeder, accessible only to the finch family, red polls and pine siskins.

Safflower:

This "white sunflower" may be fed to satisfy cardinals, doves and finches. Squirrels do not find safflower very attractive.

Finch:

This is a blend of Nyjer, Canary Seed, Millet and Canola. A cheaper alternative to Nyjer, but may not be eaten quite as readily.