

NEWS RELEASE
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UC Cooperative Extension
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ASK A MASTER GARDENER

Don't Forget the Birds

by Shelley Crist, Master Gardener

Just because we have put our gardens to bed for the winter, and are not outside with our feathered gardening companions, does not mean that they are not still out there. Winter is no time to forget the birds. A bird's natural food is much more scarce in the winter. Not only is the demand for bird-feeder foods higher when it is cold, but the number of birds that visit your feeders will increase also. This is a time to stock your bird feeding stations with a variety of foods such as frozen berries, suet, nuts and seeds. When temperatures are low, birds need these higher fat content foods such as sunflower seeds, suet, nuts, and peanut butter treats available to them. Large pinecones make fun and attractive feeders. Mix cornmeal, peanut butter and bird seeds together and spread over the pinecone, filling the spaces. Hang with wire or thread and you will have an instant treat. Birds also appreciate those "not so pretty" apples, oranges and other fruits. Just cut them in half and set them out in your feeding areas. Lastly, make sure you provide unfrozen sources of water throughout the winter. Happy Birding!

Master Gardeners are available to answer your home gardening questions. Call the UC Cooperative Extension office at (209) 966-2417 or email mgmariposa@ucdavis.edu. As we gear up for spring in the garden, our office hours have changed. Master Gardeners are in the office every Tuesday and Thursday, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. We welcome you to stop in at 5009

Fairgrounds Road with your gardening questions or problems. Our spring workshops are being scheduled. If you would like to receive notice of them, please call or email and we will be happy to add you to our mailing list.

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