

Bird Feeding

Native birds are an important part of the environment and are a valuable asset to the community.

Native birds fertilise native plants, spread important seeds and provide an environmentally friendly insect deterrent while helping to maintain biodiversity.

Unfortunately, there is a belief that feeding native birds is of value to the birds and will help attract more native birds to the area. In fact, feeding native birds does more harm than good.



Bird feeding can cause the following problems:

- It will attract introduced birds (such as pigeons) and eventually mice, cockroaches and rats
- 90% of birds already eat a balanced diet and the additional food can alter this
- Increases some species, which in turn, decreases others
- It can spread disease through a concentration of food and birds in large numbers in one place
- Encourages birds to become dependent on humans for their survival and birds can lose the ability to find food for themselves
- Can cause sickness and deformities in

young as high quantities of salt are present in bread and processed foods

- Can make them overweight as high quantities of fat are present in processed food and meat.

What can you do to help native birds?

If you love birds, plant a native garden that provides them with habitat and natural foods. Plants should be planted close together to create a dense cover to make the birds feel safe. You could also provide a birdbath in a place that is safe from cats.

Further Information

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