

Lynne's Winter Bird Garden

Add Colour to your Winter Garden – Attract our feathered friends

Design your garden to make a perfect home for a variety of birds or add bird friendly features to your already beautiful yard. Remember that you can enjoy your garden from inside your home so be sure to incorporate areas inside your home to view your garden and enjoy the birds. Take some time to sit at your windows with a note pad and camera and plan how to improve the view with your plantings and make it bird friendly. There is usually plenty of water around in winter in puddles, eaves troughs, low areas and even wet snow. Leave out a few saucers in warm sunny areas. Birds require food, which in cold weather means high-energy seeds, insects, and nectar. Leave seed heads standing and moss and lichen growing, a wonderful place for insects. Plant some winter blooming plants such as Mahonia for nectar. Different birds feed down low and others higher so ensure yours are at various heights. Birds need shelter from cold, wind, and rain. Broad-leafed evergreens of varying height and hedges provide sheltered hidey-holes. Birds need escape routes from predators so they can quickly find higher perches or holes to escape to when danger strikes. Take advantage of neighbours to complement the diversity with yours. Plan to make time to sit and enjoy the birds and your plantings to see what they like and what more you can add. Winter may turn out to be your favourite gardening season.