

## Low Hanging Bird Feeders Are Low Hanging Fruit




*A phrase no homeowner wants to hear...*

### A bird feeder can put you and bears in danger.

Bears are typically active in Yukon from late April until late October but are sometimes seen out of their dens well into the winter. Bird seed is tempting as it can provide lots of calories for a hungry bear.

[www.wildwise.ca](http://www.wildwise.ca)

 WildWise Yukon

## Feed birds, not bears

### Empty your bird feeder during bear season.

Consider taking your feeders down and cleaning up spilled seed from late April to late October. Keeping a tray or tarp under your feeders will make this an easy task.

**Attract birds in other ways.** Birds often look for water to drink and to bathe in. Consider installing a bird bath to attract birds while the bears are awake.

**Hang your feeder out of reach.** Do not underestimate a bear's climbing ability. Suspending a feeder from a cable or smooth metal pole at a height greater than 3 metres, or attaching the feeder to the second story of a house could make it bear safe.

**No suet!** Fatty or grease-based feeds such as suet can spoil and rot in the heat. The strong odours will attract hungry bears. Make it a winter treat for birds.

**Clean your feeder regularly.** Rainwater can spoil feed. Rotting feed is more pungent, can harm birds and will help attract bears who have a much better sense of smell than their feathered friends.

**Clean up other attractants.** Garbage, compost, chicken coops, pet food and feces, meat smokers, outdoor freezers, fruiting shrubs and greasy BBQs also attract bears.

**Consider using an electric fence.** Electric fences can be used to protect your property and bears. Contact WildWise or Environment Yukon for more information about how this inexpensive solution can work for you.

  
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