

so that you do not attract bears into your backyard. Catch pans can be purchased at feed stores, garden-supply stores, superstores, or online. Catch pans can be mounted on a bird-feeder pole or can hang from the bird feeder.



Figure 2. Left picture: Bird feeder poles are an effective method of making bird feeders inaccessible to bears; Right picture: example of a cable-suspension system.

Credits: Left picture: Ethan Noel, UF/IFAS; Right picture: myfwc.com/bear



Figure 3. Bird feeder with catch pan.

Credits: Ethan Noel, UF/IFAS

Shelled Seed

Shelled seed (e.g. sunflower, safflower, canary seed) should be put in bird feeders because shells from seeds will also attract bears into your backyard. Shelled seeds have had their hard outer casings (e.g. shells, hulls) removed so that all that is left is the edible seed itself. Shelled seed can be purchased at feed stores, garden supply stores, superstores, or online.



Figure 4. Shelled bird seed does not result in leftover hulls or uneaten pieces.

Credits: Ethan Noel, UF/IFAS

Other Tips

- Only put a single day's worth of feed out at one time. This amount can vary depending on the number of birds that visit your feeder in a given day. Try to estimate daily usage to the best of your ability.
- Bring bird feeders that are not bear-proof inside at night so that they don't attract bears. Bears prefer to move about at night (although they will also eat seed during the day) so don't leave out an unattended bird feeder.
- Consider removing bird feeders altogether. Bird baths and other water sources are good ways to entice birds to visit your yard/garden without attracting bears.

More Information

Bear Proof Birds Only Feeder. (n.d.). Retrieved July 28, 2016, from <http://wisconsinblackbears.com/>

Florida Black Bear. (n.d.). Retrieved July 28, 2016, from <http://myfwc.com/bear/>

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (2014) *A guide to living in bear country* [Brochure]. (n.p)

<http://myfwc.com/bear>—Information on bear ecology and conservation provided by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

References

Pienaar, E.F. 2014. *Conflicts between People and the Florida Black Bear*. WEC344. Gainesville: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw389>

