**Building a Pine Cone Bird Feeder**

Materials Needed

Pine cone

Bird seed

String

Vegetable shortening (alternative: peanut butter)

Plate

Popsicle stick



Instructions

1. Remove dirt and debris from your pine cone by lightly shaking, tapping, or brushing. This will help your shortening stick better!

2. Tie string around the center of your pine cone, making sure to leave two ends of string so that your feeder can be tied to a tree later.

3. Using the popsicle stick, spread shortening all over your pine cone. If the shortening is too hard to spread, you can microwave it for 10-20 seconds to make spreading easier.

4. Pour bird seed onto a plate or shallow bowl, then roll your pine cone in the bird seed. You can also sprinkle the bird seed onto your cone using a large spoon. You may need to press the bird seed onto the pine cone with your hands to make it stick. This step may be better done outdoors to avoid making a mess!

5. Hang your finished bird feeder. Good bird feeder locations are on the end of branches where birds can see and access them, especially in front of windows where you can watch visiting birds!

**Common Cones of Oregon**

**Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii)***

*Range*: Very common throughout western Oregon.

*Cone* *Length*: 2 – 4 inches

*Features*: “Dragon tongues” between cone scales.



**Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)**

*Range*: Very common in the eastern Cascades and southwestern Oregon, rare in Willamette Valley.

*Cone Length*: 3 – 6 inches long

*Features*: Woody, prickly cones.

**A pine cone from a tree

Description automatically generated with medium confidence**

**Western Hemlock (*Tsuga hetorophylla*)**

*Range*: Very common in western Oregon.

*Cone Length*: ½ – 1 inch

*Features*: Small cones with thin, round scales.

Close up of a flower

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*)**

*Range*: Very common in coastal Oregon and the Coast Range.

*Cone Length*: 1 – 3 inches

*Features*: Wavy scales on cones.



**Lodgepole Pine / Shore Pine (*Pinus contorta*)**

*Range*: Very common in coastal Oregon & high elevations of the Cascade Mountains.

*Cone* *Length*: 1.5 – 2.5 inches

*Features:* Round cone with a small prickle.



R**ed Alder (*Alnus rubra*)**

*Range*: Common in western Oregon at low elevations.

*Cone Length*: ½ – 1 inch

*Features*: Delicate cones with no scales.



**Western White Pine (*Pinus monticola*)**

*Range*: Common in the Cascade Mountains and high elevations of the Coast Range

*Cone Length*: 8 – 10 inches

*Features*: Banana-shaped cone with white resin.

A group of pine cones

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**Western Redcedar (*Thuja plicata*)**

*Range*: Common in mature forest of western Oregon

Cone Length: ¼ - ½ inch

*Features*: Tiny cones grow on ends of branches.

A picture containing plant, tree

Description automatically generated