

Grow and Construct a Gourd Bird House

Supplies:

- Gourd bird house seeds
- A trellis or fence will help them vine or let them spread across the ground
- A pencil
- An electric drill (1/8" and 3/8" bits)
- A keyhole saw bit
- A tub or sink to scrub gourd in
- Detergent and bleach
- a scrub brush
- A piece of wire or nylon rope



Instructions:

- Plant your gourd bird house seeds in a sunny location with fertile, well-drained soil.
- Water and fertilize regularly until your gourds turn a creamy brown. At this point Stop watering the gourds and leave them on the vine to harden.
- Harvest your gourds after the first frost. Make sure to leave some stem on the gourd when you cut it from the vine.
- Place your gourds to dry in a well-ventilated place. It takes three to six months for a gourd to completely dry!
- Soak the gourd in soapy water with a little bleach and then scrub the gourd with brush and steel wool. Let dry. Then drill four small holes 1/8" in the bottom of the gourd for drainage.
- With an adult's help drill a 3/8" hole just inside the circle of the gourd. Then use Your key hole saw-blade into the hole and cut a round 1" circle. (See table)
- Scoop out the seeds and pulp.
- Drill two 1/8" holes in the top of the gourd for inserting a wire or nylon rope to Hang your new bird house.

SUPPLIES:



BIRDS THAT WILL USE A GOURD BIRD HOUSE

The chart below shows the minimum size gourd needed and the size of the entrance hole required for many bird species found in Iowa

Species	Hole Size	Inside gourd size
 House Wren	1"	4" by 4"
 Chickadee	1-1/8"	4" by 4"
 Nuthatch	1-1/4"	4" by 4"
 Tufted Titmouse	1-1/4"	4" by 4"
 Bluebird	1-1/2"	5" by 5"
 Purple Martin	2"	6" by 6"
 Flicker	2-1/2"	7" by 7"