

Feeding Your Pigeons

The Pigeon food must be a good quality grain that is a clean grain with low moisture content. Grains with high moisture and/or are dirty, dusty and uncleaned are more susceptible to fungus and bacterial germs. I would suggest that anytime you bring any commercial mixed food always open one of the bags and check and see if there is any noticeable fungus on any of the grains, try to feed this to a few less important birds before you start feeding to all of your birds. I learned this lesson the hard way when I lost 22 birds in 2014 due to fungus on the Oat grains. The truth is that germs on and in the grains will affect the performance of your birds during breeding, moulting and Flying. The food used for your flyer pigeons must be fresh, clean and the highest quality.



There are three mixes that you need during the full year- 1st Breeding Mix, 2nd Moulting Mix and 3rd is Winter Mix.

Breeding Mix should contain percentage of protein between 18 to 19%, Fat around 9%, Carbohydrate and fiber are not a concern for this mix. Its usually around 55% Carbohydrates and 5% Fiber. Its important to have a variety of grains in every mix, at least 8-9 different types (2-3 types of Peas, Wheat, Milo, Millet, Safflower, Canola, Flax Seed etc.) I prefer to have small amount of green peas into this mix because green peas supposed to contain vitamin E which is needed to be consumed by the breeders for better fertility.

Moulting Mix should also have similar nutrition percentage as the Breeding Mix however, you need to add some more oily seeds such as Canary seeds, Sunflower seeds and add some Corn and Barley to bring down the percentage of protein between 18-19% and fat level to around 10%. This feed must be fed as soon as birds are separated for pairs, I usually separate them in July so they can get fully moulted before cold starts,

Winter Mix is very crucial because the birds are not very productive in winter months, neither they are breeding nor they are flying so, we want to make sure they are fed well and same time they are not gaining weight. Protein level should be around 14%, fat no more than 6% and high percentage of fiber is important. I would recommend at least 30% Barley should be used as a base of this mix and then Corn, Peas, Wheat, Millet, Milo, Flax Seeds and sunflower. Barley is the least favorite food for pigeon therefore they don't over eat and don't gain excessive weight.

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