

Bird Safety Corner

Food, Part 2



The *Aspergillus* fungus family secretes a toxin known as aflatoxin. When ingested, this can be quite toxic, especially to birds, and causes liver toxicity. All peanut butter in the U.S. has low levels of aflatoxin, but natural peanut butters with no preservatives are the most dangerous to our birds, so avoid peanut butters



without preservatives. Remember that "natural" does not necessarily mean healthy. Botulism is natural! Also avoid giving your bird peanuts in the shell. Peanuts grow in the ground and the shells may be contaminated with *Aspergillus* spores, which can be inhaled, causing aspergillosis.



Apple seeds contain cyanide and fruit pits, such as cherry, peach, plum, almond, pear, and apricot, also contain cyanide, so make sure your bird does not have access to these.



Mushrooms, particularly raw mushrooms, can cause digestive upset and liver failure. Do not let your bird near yeast dough since it can rise inside them, causing intestinal blockage.



Remove all stems, vines, and leaves from tomatoes, potatoes, and rhubarb since they are toxic. Do not allow your bird near these plant parts.



Only give your bird beans which have been cooked thoroughly. Raw dried beans have a substance called hemagglutinin, which is toxic. Remember that dried beans used as toys or toy parts may be ingested!

Cook all eggs and meats thoroughly to avoid salmonella and other organisms.



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