

Austerity Programme for Gouldians and Finches

The Austerity Programme allows your Gouldians and other Finches to completely drop out of Breeding Condition so that all of the birds are at the same "base line zero" at the end of this period. A bird's sexual organs shrink when completely out of Breeding Condition which is your goal with this Programme. That way, when you start the Breeding Programme all of your strong, healthy birds will come into breeding condition together, which should prevent a lot of time with the birds sitting around waiting for their partner to be ready to breed after they are paired. It will duplicate what happens to the Wild Gouldians at the end of the dry season/beginning of the wet season. All of your birds will drop unwanted weight and be set for the upcoming Breeding Season. The effects of the Programme are rapid. It should only last for 30 days – 1 month.

Day of Week	Water Supplements	Food Supplements	Additional Info
Sunday	KD ¹	Plain Dry Seed Mix	¹ KD – ¼ teaspoon/liter of drinking water to maintain the gut pH
Monday	Fresh Water pH < 7	Plain Dry Seed Mix	
Tuesday	Fresh Water pH < 7	Plain Dry Seed Mix	
Wednesday	Fresh Water pH < 7	Plain Dry Seed Mix	
Thursday	S76 once a month	Plain Dry Seed Mix	Air-sac mite treatment controls air-sac mites and in so doing helps protect your birds from all other diseases. S76 – 2.5mls/liter of water
Friday	S76 once a month	Plain Dry Seed Mix	
Saturday	Fresh Water pH < 7	Plain Dry Seed Mix	² Megamix is used daily to control intestinal infections when drinking water pH > 7

Notes on Soft Food Supplements

No Soft Foods are fed during the Austerity Programme.

Nothing besides Plain Dry Seed and Fresh Water are fed...no egg-shells, charcoal, fresh or dried greens or veggies.

You should however use the KD Water Cleanser one day each week and the Megamix if needed to bring the water pH below 7 the other 6 days of the week.

SPECIAL NOTE:

This Programme was developed by Laraine and is not a normal part of Dr. Rob Marshall's Health Programmes.

My experience shows that by inserting an Austerity Month between the Non-Breeding Programme and the Breeding Programme, your birds are better prepared for the Breeding season. Austerity drops them out of breeding condition, shrinks their reproductive organs, and allows for excess weight drop as "fat birds don't breed". This process allows us to bring all birds into breeding condition at the same stage of development.