

Jim van Reyk

Lorikeet Mix Mk 3

...

I have been using this mix with only a little bit of modification for well over twenty-five years. I feed as a dry mix that is available to the Lorikeets at all times. This for us, is basically a nectar/pollen substitute that seems to deliver high levels of energy and protein. Fresh fruit is also part of their daily diet and corn on the cob is also fed a couple of times a week. Breeding results from all the Aussie and Foreign Lorikeets fed on this regimen has always been very good with multiple parent-reared clutches being the norm throughout the year. It is also fed to a couple of species of non-native Lory's as a wet mix initially and then transitioning them onto dry mix. Being in the Tropics, I have always been paranoid about wet mixes spoiling as most of my work has involved very early starts, which is why we feed dry mix.

250g of Skim milk powder (home brand is fine). – Source of Calcium

500g of Dextrose. (Brigalow from Woollies) – natural sugars

250g of Raw sugar. (Home brand from Woollies)

500g of Rice flour. (From Woollies in Asian food section) – product of Thailand

2 Pkt of milk arrowroot bikkies (home-brand is OK) – Crumbed very fine or the equivalent in fine egg and biscuit. (250g) – Paswells

500g of Rice cereal (from Woollies – baby food) – high protein variety

Approx 4 teaspoons of multi vitamin powder. (Avian Vitalizer)

80ml of baking yeast (Lowan: from Woollies).

160ml of Sustagen – vanilla flavour (Sustagen is optional)

Served as a dry mix but have had people (including myself) make it into a wet mix by adding warm water to a slurry, about the consistency of infant food. Have also used it as an emergency h/raising mix.

It is most economical when you can purchase the Rice cereal, rice flour and dextrose in bulk. But buying the items off the supermarket shelf still makes a cheap mix compared to commercial brands.

**Dextrose in 20kg – any decent home brew shop
Rice Flour 25kg – catering/wholesale food ingredient supplier
Rice Cereal 10kg – Read Industries, Castle Hill Sydney – Ph: 02 9634 3377. I buy in the above quantities as they all store quite well in sealed containers.**

***Notes:**

**1. We have not had this recipe commercially analysed but have compared it to ingredients on one or two commercial dry mixes and stacks up quite well. It works very well for us, and a number of other Lorikeet breeders in the North.
2. We store the bulk Dextrose in airtight plastic buckets; the Rice cereal comes in sealed bags.
3. I have been asked, "why yeast". Do not know but it was in the original recipe given to us by a prolific breeder of Lorikeets and I don't fix something till it's broke.
4. The rice flour may be as cheap if not cheaper to buy from Woollies rather than in a commercial qty.
5. We use an 80ml (1/3rd-cup) measure for feeding. Littles through to Scaly/Musk get 1 scoop per day; the larger Lorikeets and Lorries get 2 scoops per day. Double qty's when chicks in the nest.**