



HOME & GARDEN

Home and Garden information center • 12005 Homewood Road • Ellicott City, MD 21042 • 1-800-342-2507

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Wildlife Tips

Occurrences

- Ruby-throated hummingbirds continue to visit flowers and nectar feeders. Keep nectar feeders clean and change nectar solution frequently during hot weather to prevent spoiling.
- Keep birdfeeders and baths cleaned and replenished. Change water frequently to avoid mosquitoes.
- Wildlife tends to feed more heavily on vegetable crops during dry seasons when little water is available.
- Snakes, turtles, frogs, spiders, and toads are beneficial creatures that should not be harmed. Box turtles may occasionally take a few bites out of low hanging tomatoes but their damage is very minimal. Let them enjoy a few good bites, there is no need to be concerned of their presence in your vegetable garden. Place a bird bath saucer in the ground in your yard for turtles and snakes to drink water. Keep the water clean the same as you do for birds.
- The hummingbird moth may be seen sipping nectar from flowering plants during the day. Unlike most moths which feed at night. The hummingbird moth resembles a hummingbird or a bumblebee.

Nuisance

- The USDA, APHIS, Wildlife services program has a cooperative agreement with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Division, to provide the residents of Maryland with information on how to deal with nuisance wild animals. The program operates a toll-free Nuisance Wildlife Information Line: 877-463-6497. Normal working hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. People calling after hours, or on weekends and holidays, may leave a message on the answering machine and calls will be returned during the next work day.
- Ground hogs can be destructive around the home and garden. They feed on a wide range of vegetables and ornamental plants and will gnaw and chew on wooden boards and siding. They dig burrows in soil or may inhabit areas under decks and porches. If you cannot live with the groundhog, you will have to consider live trapping. Some county animal control offices may euthanize live-trapped groundhogs. They will not live long if re-located and you may be adding to someone else's problems. There are trappers you can hire to take care of your problem. Contact the Nuisance Wildlife Information Line at 1-877-463-6497 for trapping information in your county.
- Voles may be more of a problem chewing on plant material. Use snap traps baited with apple pieces to reduce their numbers.
- Where deer are feeding on garden and landscape plants, apply a repellent, such as "Repellex", "Deer Off", "Deer-Away", "Hinder" or "Ro-Pel" to vulnerable plants. If deer pressure is heavy, try rotating repellents. Small deodorant soap bars, human hair and urine and chili pepper sprays are some other less conventional repellents that have been used with some success. Polywire fencing connected to an inexpensive, solar-powered charger can successfully exclude groundhogs and deer.
- Low, wire fences buried several inches into the ground are the surest method for excluding rabbits. You can also buy repellent products or sprinkle crushed red pepper around vulnerable plants.
- Where raccoons are a problem, secure trashcan lids with bungee cords and don't leave dog food outside. Keep soffits and all vent screens in your attic in good working order to prevent raccoons from entering your home.

Educating People To Help Themselves

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