

BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT – Links and Resources

NC Extension Gardener Handbook – Wildlife and IPM chapters

Wildlife chapter - <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/20-wildlife>

IPM chapter - <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/8-integrated-pest-management-ipm>

Backyard Wildlife Habitat – Virginia Cooperative Extension

[https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/426/426-070/SPES-247%20\(2\).pdf](https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/426/426-070/SPES-247%20(2).pdf)

Garden for Wildlife – National Wildlife Federation <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Wildlife>

How Gardeners Can Help Pollinators – USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/gardeners>

All About Birds – The Cornell Lab of Ornithology www.allaboutbirds.org

Reptiles and Amphibians in your Backyard – NC State Extension

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/reptiles-and-amphibians-in-your-backyard>

NC Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox – interactive database with detailed descriptions and photographs

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/>

Learning about NC’s Wildlife Resources – NC Wildlife Resources Commission

<http://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Learning-About-North-Carolinas-Wildlife-Resources>

NC Invasive Plant Council – list of invasive plants found in the Piedmont

<http://nc-ipc.weebly.com/piedmont-invasive-plants.html>

Soil Testing Resources and Links – from NCDA&CS and NC State Extension

<https://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Soil-Testing-Links-2021.pdf? fwd=no>

Excluding and Repelling Problem Wildlife from the Garden – Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst

<https://ag.umass.edu/home-lawn-garden/fact-sheets/wildlife-excluding-repelling-problem-wildlife-from-garden>

Low-Cost Deer Fence Alternative (video, University of Maryland)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmIGg786gOk>

Landscape Plants Rated by Deer Resistance (list) – NJ Agricultural Experiment Station, Rutgers

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/deer-resistant-plants/>

INFORMATION ON “TRAP AND RELEASE” OF PROBLEM WILDLIFE

From a legal standpoint – North Carolina state laws re. “nuisance” animals (defined as those causing property damage):

- It is illegal to trap, transport, or kill wildlife without a Wildlife Depredation Permit.
- Wildlife is a public-owned resource protected by federal and state laws. All wildlife species are protected or regulated by statute. Wildlife depredation permits are free, and easily obtained if Wildlife Dept. personnel are shown there is actual damage.
- Depredation Permits are not granted for raccoons, foxes, or skunks due to a high risk for rabies (so if you trap one of these animals by accident, you have a new problem).
- Some animals - squirrels, possums, groundhogs - may be relocated: with a permit AND permission from the landowner. Even with a permit, animals cannot be trapped and relocated randomly (“to the park” or “out in the country”). Permission must be granted by the owner of the land where the animal is to be released.
- Anyone who cannot exclude or discourage a problem animal causing property damage should go to the Wildlife Resources Commission for information (www.ncwildlife.org). The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission provides guidance to property owners to aid them in solving problems associated with "nuisance" wildlife.

From a “kindness to animals” standpoint – trap and release is often not a humane or practical choice. Some things to consider:

- Relocated animals are a threat to the population where they are introduced (competition, potential disease spread).
- Relocated animals have no resources in the new territory and often starve, or are killed by the resident population.
- Relocated animals do not always survive the stress of the transport process. Anyone using traps should check them at least daily, more often in hot weather; otherwise trapped animals may suffer and die from heat and dehydration.
- Relocated animals frequently find their way back to their former territory. And if conditions still exist which attract nuisance wildlife (primarily food sources), other animals will quickly take their place.
- Relocated animals may be parents, in which case the juveniles will die when abandoned.
- Homeowners who are not experienced with handling trapped wild animals safely may be injured in the process.

NC STATE EXTENSION

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