



HOME & GARDEN

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

September 2009

Wildlife Tips

Occurrences

- Snakes, turtles, frogs, spiders, and toads are beneficial creatures that should not be harmed. The eggs of king snakes, black rat snakes, hog-nosed snakes and ring neck snakes are hatching now. You may observe snakes in the landscape. They should be left alone. If the snakes are in your house, gently place them in a box and release them outside.
- Shorter days trigger the hummingbird's migration instinct. Leave your hummingbird feeders up through October.
- Keep birdbaths cleaned and re-filled frequently with fresh water. Leave the large seedheads of black-eyed susans, coneflowers, and other perennials for birds to feed on over the winter.
- You may encounter Monarch butterfly migration during the month. Migration may be modified by weather patterns.

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.
- Where deer are feeding on garden and landscape plants, apply a repellent, such as "Liquid Fence", "Deer-Away", "Hinder", or "Ro-Pel" to vulnerable plants. If deer pressure is heavy, try rotating repellents. Small deodorant soap bars and other types of repellents are used with some success. Polywire fencing connected to an inexpensive, solar-powered charger can successfully exclude groundhogs and deer.
- House mice and sometimes field mice may be more noticeable around and in homes due to the onset of cool weather. Keep turf and weeds properly mowed around your house and seal all cracks.

Educating People To Help Themselves

Local Governments - U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating

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