



# HOME & GARDEN

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

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## Wildlife Tips

- 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 USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Service operates a toll-free Nuisance Wildlife Information Line. The phone number has been recently changed to 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.
- Continue to feed wild birds through the remaining winter weeks. Black oil sunflower seeds and suet cakes are a good choice for a wide variety of birds. Keep bird feeders clean and provide your wild birds with fresh water. Squirrels will come to eat the bird food you put out even when your bird feeders are advertised as “squirrel-proof”. Squirrels quickly become tolerant to the hot pepper repellent added to some bird feeds. Learn to live with squirrels or offer them alternate food like ears of feed corn. Consult the staff at your local wild bird store for more detailed feeding suggestions.
- Store bird food in metal containers with lids to keep squirrels and other rodents out.
- Deer pressure on landscape plants is severe this winter due to very cold temperatures and snow cover. Where deer are feeding on garden and landscape plants, apply a repellent, such as “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 have been used with some success.
- As food becomes scarce during cold weather, skunks, raccoons and other wildlife will come closer to homes. To prevent nuisance problems remove food sources such as pet food and keep trash can lids tightly secured.

**Have a pest or gardening question?**  
**Call The Home and Garden Information Center**  
**1-800-342-2507**  
[www.hgic.umd.edu](http://www.hgic.umd.edu)

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