

Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)



Figure 1



Figure 2 Live-trapped raccoon



Figure 3 Corn damage

Damage

Damage arises when raccoons upset trash containers, raid gardens and bird feeders, or take residence in chimneys, attics and other places where they are unwanted. Raccoons can transmit canine distemper, parvovirus, rabies and *Baylisascaris* (roundworm) to domestic animals and humans. Parasite eggs are shed in the feces of raccoons and can be transmitted to humans – be careful if cleaning up raccoon feces.

When Are They Active

Raccoons are naturally active at night – from an hour before sunset to an hour after sunrise. However, if they become habituated to humans, they may appear during the day. Raccoons do not truly hibernate but may become inactive when temperatures fall below 25°F.

Susceptible Plants

Raccoons are omnivorous (eat both plant and animal matter). Raccoons are fond of many garden crops, especially sweet corn and melons. Partially eaten ears of sweet corn or broken stalks are signs of raccoon damage.

Prevention/Control Methods

Plant prickly vine crops around the border. Remove whatever is attracting them (bird feeders, pet food that is outside, etc). Enclose compost piles that can attract raccoons and other animals that raccoons eat. Scare tactics don't usually work with raccoons. Check wildlife damage laws and regulation of raccoons on the [WDNR website](#). Contact animal control or 911 if animal appears sick or injured.

Additional Information/Resources

- Professional Wildlife Removal Directory [Raccoon](#)
- Raccoon Ecology & Damage Management ([G3997-005](#))
- Wildlife Damage Management Fact Sheet – [Raccoons](#)
- Dane County UW Extension Horticulture Hotline [608-224-3721](#) (M-F, 9 am-12 noon, April 15 – October 31) or horticulture@countyofdane.com