

Cottontail Rabbits

AKA: Cottontail, rabbit, bunny, jack rabbit, hares (incorrect).

Scientific Classification: Animalia, Chordata, Vertebrata, Mammalia, Lagomorpha, Leporidae, *Sylvilagus*.

Size & Markings: There are many species of rabbits in the US, but the most commonly reported pest is the eastern cottontail. This species can grow 16" long and can weigh up to 3 pounds. It's thick fur is reddish brown to gray in color. Long ears, powerful hind legs and cotton-ball tail are the classic features of the cottontail rabbit.

Habitat: Cottontails seek out habitat on the fringes of open spaces, such as fields, meadows, and farms, but can readily adapt to man-made habitats such as lawns, golf courses, cemeteries and more. Cottontails are unique in that they create shallow depressions above ground for their nests. Other rabbit species (such as the European Rabbit) nest underground in tunnels or warrens.

Nesting/Dens: A mating pair of Cottontails can produce 7 litters or 30 to 40 offspring every year. Each young rabbit is ready to breed at 3 to 4 months of age. It is easy to see how populations can get out of control in a very short period of time.

Food: Rabbits are herbivores that feed by grazing on grass and leafy weeds. As a result, they ingest large amounts of cellulose, which is difficult to digest. Rabbits solve this problem by passing two different types of feces; hard droppings and soft black pellets, the latter of which is re-eaten (a behavior known as coprophagy). By re-ingesting the partially digested droppings they extract every bit of nutrients.

Impact on Human Health: Rabbits are susceptible to many diseases that can be transmitted to humans. Examples are *Bordetella bronchiseptica* and *Escherichia coli*. Rabbits carry parasites such as fleas, ticks, mites and *Toxoplasma gondii* (*T. gondii*) which causes the disease of toxoplasmosis in nearly all mammals (including humans).

Impact on Agriculture: Most rabbit complaints feature their appetite for the plants in our gardens and lawns. Farmers can lose entire crops to exploding rabbit populations. Other species of rabbits create dangerous holes in yards, lawns and pastures for horses and livestock. A "rabbit-proof" fence was constructed in Western Australia to stop the advance the hugely overpopulated European rabbits (closely related to cottontails) and the complete destruction of agriculture they caused.

Cottontail Rabbit Control Methods:

Access Barriers: *Welded Wire Mesh* and *Copper Blocker Access Control*.

Additional Products: *Live Capture Animal Traps*, *Wall and Roof Vent Guards*, etc.

NOTE: It is your responsibility to check local, state and federal regulations regarding the control of bird and/or animal species.

Simply purchasing the best control does not guarantee success. Best results come from a thorough knowledge of both the species and the product or method you employ. If you have any questions, please contact Nixalite of America Inc and speak with a wildlife control product specialist.



Eastern Cottontails are one of the most common rabbit species in the US. Each mating pair can produce 30 to 40 offspring every year.



Rabbits ingest large amounts of cellulose - a very hard to digest diet. They solve this by practicing Coprophagy - the re-eating of partially digested feces to extract all the nutrients.



For individuals, capture and relocation can be effective. Trapping can be as much art as science. Know your quarry and know your trap.

Note: factual content from Wikipedia, Audubon, US Center for Disease Control, US Federal Register Codebook, and others.



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