

## Woodchucks

The woodchuck, also known as a groundhog, is one of the most common mammals found in our area. They are a member of the squirrel family and are considered a nuisance animal.



**Feeding:** Woodchucks feed most often in the early morning hours or in the evening. They feed on grass, leaves, and other plants. They love to devour the fruits of your garden or nursery destroying your crops. Fruit trees and shrubs are damaged by the woodchuck gnawing on them.

**Habitat:** Woodchucks prefer wooded and brushy locations. They dig burrows that are used for denning in the winter, mating, weaning their young, and protection. They leave mounds of dirt on the surface at the entrance of the hole which is approximately 12 inches in diameter. The mounds of dirt and the size of the hole is substantial enough to be a hazard to others.

The woodchuck goes into hibernation in late fall and remains there until late February or early March. Woodchucks breed in March and April. The gestation period is approximately 32 days and then 2 - 6 young are born. The young remain with the mother until late June or early July and then they venture out on their own.

**Prevention and Control:** Fencing in gardens may help protect them from the woodchucks. Like the squirrel, woodchucks are good climbers so fences should be at least 3 feet high and buried at least 10 inches into the ground to prevent the woodchuck from burrowing under.

As with all animal control there are regulations in place which must be followed. Our methods and procedures are performed in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.