

VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL

Mike Mengak, Wildlife Specialist

NOTE: For recommendations on the use of chemicals to control vertebrate pests, contact your Cooperative Extension agent.

It is necessary to obtain a permit prior to killing protected animals in Georgia. Get a permit by writing the Wildlife Resources Office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 2070 U.S. Highway 278, S.E., Social Circle, GA 30279; or call (404) 656-4994.

In the following section, non-game animals include pocket gophers, chipmunks, bats, amphibians, and reptiles. A permit is also required to take furbearing animals or game animals out of season. A current hunting or trapping license is required to take game or furbearing animals in season.

To begin the permit process for taking protected birds, call the USDA Wildlife Services at (706) 546-5637. For permits to kill other protected animals, call the Wildlife Resources office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (770) 761-3044.

MAMMALS

SPECIES	HABITAT MODIFICATION	EXCLUSION	FRIGHTENING	REPELLENTS	TOXICANTS/FUMIGANTS	TRAPPING	OTHER
Beaver	Eliminate food, trees, woody vegetation where feasible Continually destroy dams Install water control device (Clemson beaver pond leveler)	Fence small areas along stream and yard Fence around valuable trees	Continual destruction of lodges and dams	None are registered	None are registered	Very effective if done by a trained Wildlife Control Expert	None
Chipmunk	Store food such as bird seed and dog food in rodent-proof container Ground cover, shrubs, and wood piles should not be located adjacent to structural foundation	Seal all cracks and holes in foundations 1/4-inch mesh hardware cloth buried 1-2 feet deep to exclude from gardens and flower beds	Not effective	Area repellent such as <i>naphthalene</i> (moth balls) may work in confined area but only outside (like in a shed – never in a house) Taste repellents containing <i>bitrex</i> or <i>thiram</i> applied to seeds, bulbs, or vegetation not meant for human consumption	None are registered	Very effective; using standard mouse or rat snap traps baited with peanut butter	None
Gray squirrel or flying squirrel	Trim trees away from house Remove diseased trees or trees with cavities	Sheet metal bands on isolated trees to prevent climbing in order to protect developing nut crop Seal all openings to buildings especially around chimney, eaves, and soffets Install excluder in attics to allow squirrel to escape and prevent re-entry	Not effective	Some products containing hot sauce (<i>capsaicin</i>) and other distasteful compounds may work (may also be used with deer)	None are registered	Can be very effective but should only be done by qualified Wildlife Control Expert Permits may be required	On bird feeders suspended by rope. Place rope through plastic conduit to reduce climbing

VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL – MAMMALS

SPECIES	HABITAT MODIFICATION	EXCLUSION	FRIGHTENING	REPELLENTS	TOXICANTS/ FUMIGANTS	TRAPPING	OTHER
Voles	Eliminate ground cover such as grass and weeds Remove mulch from base of trees and plants Cultivate soil to destroy burrows, tunnels and ground cover	Recommended to protect trees, ornamentals and gardens Use 1/4-inch mesh hardware cloth buried 1-2 feet deep	Not effective	None proven effective	Some anticoagulant poisons are labeled for home garden vole control. Always use extreme caution around pets and children	Very effective using standard rat or mouse traps baited with peanut butter	None
Moles	Reduce soil moisture and food sources by reducing watering and cautiously using lawn pesticides to treat for insects and grubs	May be cost effective in very small area like flower bed or garden 1/4-inch mesh hardware cloth or sheet metal	Not effective	None are registered	Several toxic products are labeled for placing in the tunnel or hole. Use with caution around pets and children.	Difficult, but can be effective in some situations	None
Deer	Difficult; habitat modification is not generally recommended Plant deer resistant plants Harvest crops early Lure crops may draw deer away from valuable crops	Fences – up to 8 feet tall; less if with dog Electric fences can be effective Individual tree protector; fence or pipe to prevent antler rubs	May provide some limited protection in certain situations	Many are available; some commercial, some “home” remedies Effectiveness varies with ingredients and timing; start applying prior to damage; high density deer population will not likely be repelled Taste and odor repellents are available; beware of advertising Sound repellents are generally ineffective	None	Not available to landowners	Contraception is possible in lab situations and limited effectiveness in field; expensive Hunting is best in most situations but not allowable in some instances
Coyote	Destroy dens if possible Reduce habitat for mice and other food items	Fencing pastures and yards to reduce danger to livestock and pets Keep pets inside, especially at night	Guard dogs can be effective for livestock	None shown to be consistently effective	Available to livestock producers and wildlife control experts; generally not available to homeowners/ gardeners.	Can be very effective but requires considerable knowledge; best left to wildlife control experts	Hunting if safe and legal
Hogs	Difficult	Fencing may be effective for small areas	May provide limited protection in some instances	None	None	Very effective but costly and time intensive	Shooting or hunting. Check all game regulations

REPELLENTS FOR DEER, RABBITS, AND OTHER MAMMALS

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These materials may give temporary protection. Repellents are most likely to produce satisfactory results if protection is needed for a week or two. If protection is required, fencing is often a more effective treatment. Retreatment may be necessary, especially after rain. Repellents are most effective when applied before damage starts. Local density of animal may negate efficacy of any repellent treatment. Some repellents are contact and water soluble; others are systemic and therefore require less frequent application. Read and follow all label instructions. Some repellents are not labeled for use on food crops. Contact wildlife specialist for additional products.

PROBLEM OR LOCATION	CHEMICAL AND FORMULATION	METHOD AND RATE	TARGET SPECIES	REMARKS AND RESTRICTIONS
Browsing on conifer seedlings, ornamentals, hardwoods	Putrescent Whole Egg solids. Can be homemade.		Deer	A taste repellent. Not for use on edible plants. Brands or product names: Deer Away, BGR.
	Liquid 15% Powder 36%	Apply to vegetation—spray, dip, or shake as per label.		
Fruit trees, field crops, ornamentals, nursery stock, vegetables, non-crop areas	Ammonium soaps of higher fatty acids	Dilute as per label. Spray on crops to be protected.	Deer Rabbit	Retreat after rain or as necessary.
	Liquid 15%	May work as border treatment. Label may include use as paint for stems and trunks.	Deer Rabbit	Brand or product names: Hinder
	Other taste repellents: – Mint Oil – Garlic Oil – Capsaicin – Bitrex®		Deer Rabbit	Retreat after rain or as necessary. Apply before damage is noticed. Follow label instructions—some products not labeled for edible crops. Brand or product names: Tree-Guard, Liquid Fence, Deer-Off, Phantskydd, This-1-Works®.
	Odor Repellents: – Milorganite®	Apply as per label.	Deer Rabbit	Retreat as necessary. Most home odor repellents are not effective. Milorganite® is a mild organic fertilizer. Effective if used properly.
Gnawing on wood siding, decks, fence posts	<i>benzylidethyl-methyl ammoniumsaccharide</i> and <i>thymol</i> sources.	Apply as per label. Do not apply indoors. Avoid contact with water or food sources. Do not mix with other chemicals.	Rats Squirrels Skunks Rabbits	Manufacturer claims of effectiveness may need further testing. May repel woodpeckers. Brand name: Ro-Pel®

REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS AND BIRDS

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There are no toxicants or fumigants registered for reptiles and amphibians. Commercial snake repellents are available but none have been shown to be consistently effective. Snakes lack a sense of smell and do not hear sound so repellents are of questionable efficacy. Nearly all reptiles, except venomous (poisonous) snakes, are protected. Amphibians enjoy less legal protection. All native birds are protected and require state and federal permits. Harassment and repellents (non-lethal only) are generally allowed. Check with local wildlife law enforcement officials prior to working with birds.

ANIMAL	PROBLEM OR LOCATION	CHEMICAL AND FORMULATION	METHOD AND RATE	REMARKS AND RESTRICTIONS
Reptiles Snakes, lizards, turtles, and alligators				Georgia has no venomous lizards. Six of Georgia's 40 species of snakes are venomous. All harmless snakes are protected. Send skins, frozen or preserved specimens to state specialist for identification. Call DNR. Do not kill. Fix in Formalin. Frozen is better. Do not damage head. Alligators are protected in Georgia. Contact Georgia Wildlife Resources biologists for alligator problems. Use traps to remove nuisance turtles.
Amphibians Frogs, toads, salamanders, and their tadpoles	Animals getting into swimming pools, houses	None		No chemical controls are currently available. Hand removal with a dip net is recommended. Keeping sticks or rocks in small garden pools will allow animal to climb out.
Birds	Nesting in rafters of pole barns; pecking holes in siding; roosting; eating fruit.	No toxicants or fumigants registered.		Recommendations are for physical exclusion with fence, net or barrier. Brand name: Bird-X® netting, Nix-A-Lite®, sticky caulking.
Goose	Droppings on lawn, playground, driveway; eating grass; nesting	<i>methyl anthranilate</i>	Follow label directions.	Goose repellent made from Concord grapes. Expensive. Must reapply after mowing, rain or irrigation.