

LIVING WITH BEARS

Bears are attracted by all types of smells. Although bird feeders and unsecured garbage cans may start the problem, other more subtle food sources can *attract* bears.



Barbeque grills should be cleaned after every use. Remove the grease can and rull the grill on “high” to burn off excess grease.



Store your grill in a secure place when not in use.



Feed family pets indoors.



Keep refrigerators and freezers in a secure place. Coolers left outside may *attract* bears.



If you have livestock or beehives these can be protected with electric fencing.

Remember – bear problems are community-wide issues that can only be reduced through communication and cooperation with others in your neighborhood.

Once bears learn to associate location with food, they will keep returning and are likely to cause property damage. Bears that approach one house for food may also approach other houses.

Bears that learn to come close to people and houses are more likely to cause problems. Some may even be killed because of behavior patterns learned during these approaches.

Following the suggestions on this brochure can help reduce the problems with bears.

What should you do if you see a bear?

Don't Panic. Bears are more likely to be afraid of you than you are of them. Know that you have the privilege of seeing a magnificent wild creature close-up, but don't lose sight of the fact that bears are powerful animals that may defend themselves if they feel threatened.

Never approach, surround, or attempt to touch a bear. **Always** leave a clear escape route for the bear.

If you feel threatened by a bear, back away slowly, but do not run.

If the bear keeps coming back or will not leave, make loud noises – yell, clap, blow car horns or air horns, or drum on nearby objects.

In New York State, people and black bears often find themselves living in the same areas. With frequent encounters nearly inevitable, it's good to know how to keep those encounters safe and enjoyable for you and the bears.

How to prevent bear problems



Store garbage in cans or dumpsters and keep them in a secure place like a garage.



Put garbage out only on the morning of pickup. Burning and composting of garbage may *attract* bears.



Feed birds only from December 1 until April 1. During the rest of the year, you may be *attracting* more bears than birds. **Make sure you take down your bird feeders from April 1st to December 1st to prevent problems with bears.**



Bird seed and garbage are favorite foods for bears. In many cases, bears will choose them instead of natural food sources.

Check the DEC Website at www.dec.state.ny.us for more information about black bears.