For more information: squamish.ca or call 604.815.5066

Tips for reducing bear visits to your backyard:

- Avoid using plants that bears like to eat next to doorways, windows or entrances, near children's play sets, beside paths and high use areas.
- Harvest vegetable gardens and fruit from trees/bushes when ripe; do not allow fruit to accumulate on the ground.
- Avoid using bone meal or fish fertilizer.
- Avoid seeding with clover and keep your grass cut and free of dandelions.
- Choose plant species that attract birds, bees and butterflies without attracting bears. Install a bird bath or a nesting box.

For all wildlife sightings and encounters:

RAPP
Report All Poachers and Polluters
Conservation Officer 24 Hour Hotline
1-877-952-RAPP (7277)
cell: #7277
rapp.bc.ca

Please note: The District of Squamish Wildlife Attractant Bylaw No. 2053 states “...any fruit that has fallen from a tree is removed from the ground within 3 days if stored outdoors, only in a wildlife resistant container or wildlife resistant enclosure...”

Attracting dangerous wildlife is also an offence under the Wildlife Act (section 33.1).
wildlife friendly landscaping in bear country

Improving and creating wildlife habitat in our yards has a positive ecological value. Squamish is bear country so improving wildlife habitat can also mean attracting bears.

While bears are a part of our natural environment, we don’t want to invite them into our yards with landscaping that provides them with food. Backyard fruit-bearing trees and shrubs are an easy source of calories for a bear. Once bears learn where the food is, they are likely to return. Bears that become conditioned to accessing food in residential neighbourhoods are at a greater risk of getting into conflict.

Squamish is a Bear Smart certified community and we are making our yards less attractive to bears by ensuring that: all garbage is locked away; that birdseed is inaccessible; that pets aren’t fed outdoors; that outdoor fridges and freezers are locked; that compost isn’t accessible and that BBQ’s are cleaned.

Plants that are OKAY

These plants ARE RECOMMENDED as alternatives as they are not known to attract bears.

- Davidson’s penstemon
- Douglas maple
- Falsebox
- Foam flower
- Goats beard
- Hardhack
- Large leafed lupine
- Mock orange
- Pacific ninebark
- Red columbine
- Snowbrush
- Sweet gale
- Penstemon davidsonii
- Acer glabrum
- Pachystima myrsinites
- Tiarella trifoliata
- Aruncus sylvester/dioicus
- Spirea douglasii
- Lupinus polyphyllus
- Physocarpus capitatus
- Aquilegia formosa
- Ceanothus velutinus
- Myrica gale

NOTE: These are just a few examples, there are many other options.

Mountain-ash berries ripen when most other berries have been depleted at lower elevations. The large clumps of mountain-ash berries provide for quick and easy feeding.

Plants that are NOT OKAY

These plants are NOT RECOMMENDED due to their attractiveness to bears:

- Alaskan Blueberry
- Baldhip Rose
- Dandlion
- Dull Oregon-Grape
- Himalayan Blackberry
- Horsetail
- Kinnickinnick
- Oval-Leaf Blueberry
- Pacific Crab Apple
- Red Clover
- Red Elderberry
- Red Huckleberry
- Red Raspberry
- Red-Osier Dogwood
- Salal
- Salmonberry
- Saskatoon/Service Berry
- Sedge
- Sitka Mountain-Ash
- Skunk Cabbage
- Stink Current
- Thimbleberry
- White Clover
- Wild Rose
- Wild Strawberry
- Vaccinium alaskaense
- Rosa gymnocarpa
- Taraxacum officinale
- Mahonia nervosa
- Rubus discolor
- Equisetum arvense
- Arctostaphylos uva-ursi
- Vaccinium ovalifolium
- Malus Fusca
- Trifolium pratense
- Sambucus racemosa
- Vaccinium parvifolium
- Rubus Idaeus
- Cornus stolonifera
- Gaultheria shallon
- Rubus spectabilis
- Amelanchier alnifolia
- Carex spp.
- Sorbus sitchensis
- Lysichiton americanum
- Ribes bracteosum
- Rubus parviflorus
- Trifolium repens
- Rosa pisocarpa
- Fragaria Virginiana

NOTE: This list is not exhaustive. There may be other plants that bears will use opportunistically.

Keep your grass cut and free of dandelions – a favourite food for bears.