



Domestic fruit is not a natural food source for bears and is the #2 attractant that brings bears into our community

Fruit Tree Tips and Best Practices

- Prune fruit trees to promote a manageable size and a healthier harvest.
- Prune trees when they are dormant, in late January to early February.
- Consider planting dwarf species that are easier to manage and harvest or plant non-fruit bearing species.
- If you cannot utilize all of your fruit, consider power washing some of the blossoms off the tree in the spring time to reduce the amount of fruit produced.
- Harvest fruit regularly and do not allow fruit to accumulate on the ground as this will attract wildlife.
- Do not use plants that bears like to eat in high traffic areas such as near a doorway/entrance or near children's play sets.
- Consider replacing your fruit tree with a native non-fruit bearing species.
- Consider using a portable electric fence to protect your fruit trees until harvested. For electric fencing information visit: www.wildsafebc.com
- Squamish CAN has created the Squamish Food Swap and Share Facebook page to encourage residents to exchange and offer their garden abundance, supplies and get help with harvesting fruit.

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).

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 more information:
squamish.ca
 or call 604.815.5066

photos courtesy of B. Speidel, M. Allen, B. Haywood-Farmer & A. Bauer. L. Drewry

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 

Wildlife Friendly Landscaping in Bear Country



British Columbia Conservation Foundation

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	Penstemon davidsonii
Douglas maple	Acer glabrum
Falsebox	Pachystima myrsinites
Foam flower	Tiarella trifoliata
Goats beard	Aruncus sylvestris/dioicus
Hardhack	Spirea douglasii
Large leafed lupine	Lupinus polyphyllus
Mock orange	Philadelphus lewisii
Pacific ninebark	Physocarpus capitatus
Red columbine	Aquilegia formosa
Snowbrush	Ceanothus velutinous
Sweet gale	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	Vaccinium alaskaense
Baldhip Rose	Rosa gymnocarpa
Dandelion	Taraxacum officinale
Dull Oregon-Grape	Mahonia nervosa
Himalayan Blackberry	Rubus discolor
Horsetail	Equisetum arvense
Kinnickinnick	Arctostaphylos uva-ursi
Oval-Leaf Blueberry	Vaccinium ovalifolium
Pacific Crab Apple	Malus Fusca
Red Clover	Trifolium pratense
Red Elderberry	Sambucus racemosa
Red Huckleberry	Vaccinium parvifolium
Red Raspberry	Rubus Idaeus
Red-Osier Dogwood	Cornus stolonifera
Salal	Gaultheria shallon
Salmonberry	Rubus spectabilis
Saskatoon/Service Berry	Amelanchier alnifolia
Sedge	Carex spp.
Sitka Mountain-Ash	Sorbus sitchensis
Skunk Cabbage	Lysichiton americanum
Stink Currant	Ribes bracteosum
Thimbleberry	Rubus parviflorus
White Clover	Trifolium repens
Wild Rose	Rosa pisocarpa
Wild Strawberry	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.

