**Food Attractants**

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Coyotes are opportunistic feeders (scavengers) and food sources are a major attractant in residential areas. Habituation of coyotes to human activity is directly linked to the availability of food resources, including the intentional and accidental feeding of wildlife.

For the safe enjoyment of our yards, parks, and playgrounds, NWACA encourages awareness of food attractants that may be available in your own yard.

If you feed birds:

* Position and monitor feeders so that coyotes and their prey (squirrels and rodents) cannot get to the seed.
* Keep seed from accumulating on the ground.
* Clean up after offering any bread and/or table scraps, as this attracts prey.

If you have fruit trees, collect the dropped fruit and don’t allow it to accumulate on the ground.

If you compost:

* Make sure compost is secure and that coyotes and their prey (squirrels and rodents) cannot access it.
* Avoid putting meat scraps in your compost.

If you have a pet:

* Feed your pet indoors.
* Store pet food indoors where wildlife cannot reach it.

If you feed wildlife:

* Professional literature encourages us NOT to feed wildlife (such as deer, raccoons, squirrels and rabbits). Many well-intentioned individuals do so out of kindness and concern for wildlife, without realizing that providing food is also attracting predators. Coyote are highly attracted to your yard because of the presence of wildlife (their prey) - and they are passing through your neighbors’ yards to get to yours. Quite simply put, the feeding of wildlife contributes to the habituation of coyote in our residential area. This compromises the safe enjoyment of our yards, parks, and playgrounds for our pets and young children.

Garbage Storage: Please ensure your cans are enclosed if possible, and that lids are secure.

More information about food attractants and urban coyote can be found at the following resources: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/coyotes-central-texas>

 <http://go.usa.gov/Dzyj> ; and <http://agrilifecdn.tamu.edu/txwildlifeservices/files/2011/07/SuburbanCoyotes.pdf>