**Fall Food Attractants for the Coyote --- NWACA Wildlife Committee**

Food and water resources for wildlife are depleted toward the end of a dry, hot summer. We remind residents that coyotes are opportunistic feeders (scavengers). Birdseed, scraps, dropped fruit, compost, garbage, rodents, and unsupervised small pets are some common food attractants in a residential area. Habituation of coyotes to human activity is directly linked to the availability of food sources, including the intentional and accidental feeding of wildlife.

If you feed birds:

* Position feeders so 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; don’t allow it to accumulate on the ground.

If you compost:

* Make sure compost is secure and that coyotes and their prey cannot access it.
* Avoid adding meat scraps to your compost.

If you have a pet:

* Feed your pet indoors and store pet food indoors where wildlife cannot reach it.
* Try to supervise small pets when in your yard, as they are regarded as prey.

Wildlife professionals encourage us to NOT feed wildlife. Coyotes are highly attracted to any yard providing sources of food and prey; they will pass through your neighbor’s yard to access it.

For more information about food attractants and urban coyotes: [http://www.austintexas.gov/department/coyotes-central-texas](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.austintexas.gov%2Fdepartment%2Fcoyotes-central-texas&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNGakBqpeMdmdwTE-dkZlSts1VsdOQ);  [http://go.usa.gov/Dzyj](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fgo.usa.gov%2FDzyj&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNErZCJgpoUIkgmnCF_aZh2Ad46c-w) ; and <http://goo.gl/SaAVeQ>