



OPOSSUMS

Opossums are not fussy eaters, and raid vegetable gardens, compost piles, grape arbors and garbage cans with equal abandon. Most active at night, they excavate holes in compost piles and severely damage tomato plants in their attempts to get at the fruit.

To discourage opossums, keep garbage cans tightly closed, don't leave pet food out at night, and eliminate brush piles and holes under concrete slabs. Keep vegetable crops harvested and do not leave rotting fruits or vegetables on the ground. Secure the vegetable garden with a fence made out of chicken wire. Make sure the fence is at least 4' high, with 12 to 18" bent out at the top. Bending the bottom part of the fence outwards and burying it will make the fence more effective. If this is too difficult, protecting individual plants with wire cages may help.

Trapping and removing opossums or other wildlife is not legal without a permit.