

Feral Pigs in Canada



About Feral Pigs



- Other common names: feral hog, feral swine, feral pig, wild boar, piney woods rooter, wild hog, Eurasian wild boar
- The territory of a male wild pig can be 300 square kilometres and sows can encompass 230 square kilometres.
- Wild pigs can breed any time of the year with females producing two litters of 1-7 piglets every 12-15 months.
- Generally, wild pigs live for four or five years but can live up to eight years.
- Wilds pigs are primarily nocturnal.
- Females mature as early as six months, which can lead to wild pig populations doubling every four months.
- Wild pigs can be found in a variety of habitats including forests, agricultural areas, grassy savanna areas, shrublands and marshy swamplands

Signs and Tracks

Wild pig tracks display similar but distinguishing features between the front and hind tracks. Both tracks are approximately 2 ½ inches long with two hooves. In the front track, their dewclaws sometimes show a small crescent beside and behind the hoof prints whereas in the hind track it sometimes shows dots.



Introduction

- Wild Pigs are one of the most invasive terrestrial mammals in the world.
- They are native to Eurasia and North Africa.
- Wild pigs have a broad geographic range and can easily adapt and survive in new environments due to their high fecundity (large number of offspring produced), early sexual maturity, varied diet, long lifespans, and highly adaptive nature.
- Female wild pigs are known to be smaller than males, with their size becoming more apparent as the animal ages.



Introduction (cont'd)

- Wild pigs have a wide range of colors from black to brownish-red to white. They can also be speckled or have a solid color.
- Other distinguishing features include long snouts, large tusks, wedge-shaped heads, and coarse hair.



[CTV Feral Pigs](#)

Ecological Impacts

- In preparation to give birth, females use saplings and other woody plants that they either break off or uproot completely to build nests.
- Displace soil and small undergrowth, leading to erosion, soil deterioration, degradation of natural areas and impact to water quality.
- Transmit parasites (i.e., lice, American dog ticks) to humans and other animals.
- Loss of native flora and fauna.
- Compete with native wildlife for food, water, and space.
- Use their tusks and snouts to root into the ground to dig for roots, tubers, bulbs, worms, insects, slugs, and snails.
- Damage to crops and pasturelands.

Economic and Social Impacts

- Increased costs for farmers due to damaged crops, losing or having to treat infected livestock, and needing to build barriers to keep wild pigs out.
- Aggressive behavior towards humans or pets.
- High costs to control wild pigs if they become established
- <https://youtu.be/FmEiHmlAcbk>

History of Feral Pigs in Canada

- Wild pigs were first introduced to Canada from Europe beginning in the 1980's as exotic livestock for meat. Due to human introductions, wild pigs have been expanding globally with populations present on all continents except Antarctica. In Canada, wild pigs have spread throughout the country since the late 1980's.



Conclusion

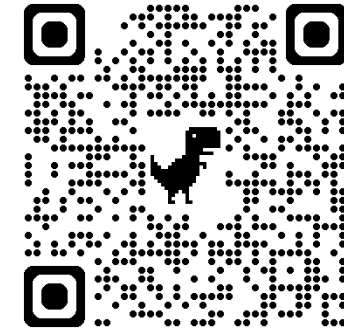
- Hunting is not an option unless you can guarantee a 100% kill rate, as they teach the other pigs to avoid humans
- Trapping has some success but has not slowed down their expansion elsewhere
- Need to work together to start looking out for and reporting any sightings
- They are a huge negative impact to the whole ecosystem
- Wild pigs can adapt to almost any climate, from North Africa to Russia and Canada, and now have the widest distribution of any large mammal on earth.

Action Items

- Set up Feral Pig, community watch / reporting program
- Discuss cultural ideas on how we can help mitigate or eradicate these invasives
- Set up Treaty 8 community workgroup with contacts for sharing of sightings, programs, tracking impacts and successes/failures
 - Treaty 8 information board?
 - Treaty 8 quarterly meetings?
 - Should we include invasives as a generic issue including all aquatic and terrestrial invasives instead of singling out each issue?
 - Questions / suggestions??

Some Useful Invasives Links, Information

- <https://bcinvasives.ca/take-action/report/#apps>
 - [Download the Reporting App](#)



- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/reporting-invasive-species>
 - [Report through the Province's Web Page](#)

