

Raccoon



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

COMMON RACCOON

Procyon lotor

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ stocky, medium size (26-40 inches)
- ◆ gray to brownish fur
- ◆ bushy tail with 4-7 dark rings
- ◆ pointed nose and black mask on a white face
- ◆ long finger-like toes



Where To Look

Raccoons are found throughout the state of Georgia. They are nocturnal and are best seen at dawn or dusk. In nature, they prefer swamps and riverbottoms, but they have adapted well to humans and are common in suburban neighborhoods.



Tracks and Other Signs

The long-fingered hand-like prints of raccoons are often seen in the mud along river and stream banks. Raccoon poop is another sign of their presence. It often contains remnants of their last meal.



Winter Adaptations

Raccoons become a lot less active during colder months and spend more time sleeping in their dens (hollow trees or rock crevices) but they do not hibernate.



What It Eats

Raccoons will eat just about anything including insects, frogs, crayfish, earthworms, fruits, nuts, acorns, and crops. They also like to rummage through garbage cans at night or eat pet food left in bowls.



Predators and Other Dangers

Raccoons are hunted by humans, and they are often hit by cars at night. Dogs are also a major predator of raccoons.



Did You Know

Raccoons have large brains and appear to be very intelligent with a good memory and a very curious nature. One sign of their intelligence is that they wash their food before they eat.