

White-tailed Deer



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

WHITE-TAILED DEER

Odocoileus virginianus

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ males are up to four feet tall, 6-7 feet long; females are smaller
- ◆ brownish gray with a white tail and belly
- ◆ males have antlers
- ◆ young fawns have white spots



Where To Look

Deer are generally nocturnal but can be seen any time of day. They are found in forests, fields, along rivers and streams and in gardens and lawns.

Tracks and Other Signs

Deer are hooved animals and have very distinct tracks. The feces of deer are small round pellets left in piles.



Winter Adaptations

In the winter, deer enter a semi-hibernative state. They eat only in the warmer daylight hours. Their bodies store fat just under the skin which serves as insulation, keeping their body heat inside.



What It Eats

Deer eat the leaves and barks of many trees and shrubs. They also eat mushrooms and graze on grasses and sedges.



Predators and Other Dangers

Humans are the primary predators of deer. They are hunted for food or sport. The young are prey to red fox and dogs.



Did You Know...

The hairs of deer are hollow and filled with air which makes them extremely buoyant - they float! These hollow hairs also insulate them in winter keeping them warm.