



Cottontail Rabbit - Quick Reference Sheet¹

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Table 1.

Common Name:		cottontail
Other Names:		rabbit, bunny
Scientific Name:		<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>
Appearance:	Length:	about 15 inches
	Weight:	between 2 and 3½ pounds
	Color:	buggy gray with white underbelly
	Other:	rather large ears (to 4 inches), cotton ball tail
Range:		statewide
Habitat:		wooded edges, brushy fields, shrubby yards
Diet:		young woody stems, many herbaceous plants, many grasses
Reproduction:		3-4 young per litter
		4-6 litters per year

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Behavior:	most active after dark
	most common in suburban yards where dense shrubbery or brushpiles are available
	no social structure in populations
Problems:	can be very damaging to some woody ornamentals
	damaging in vegetable gardens, especially to legumes (beans, peas) and cabbage family
	may chew bark of young trees
Solutions:	fence around beds or plants at least two feet high
	use landscape plants less susceptible to damage
	use of live traps is often ineffective when rabbit populations are high
	use of repellents, scare devices and ultrasonics are generally ineffective
	lethal control can be effective where legal
Legal Aspects:	may be destroyed when damaging property
Fact Sheet Available:	no