



Gray Squirrels - Quick Reference Sheet¹

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Table 1.

Common Name:		gray squirrel
Other Names:		none
Scientific Name:		<i>Sciurus caroliniensis</i>
Appearance:	Length:	about 18 inches, including 9 inch tail
	Weight:	between 1 and 1½ lbs., adult
	Color:	commonly salt and pepper, grizzled with tan hairs in body coat and white belly
Range:		common statewide
Habitat:		woodlands and urban areas, especially near oaks, hickories and other trees
		tree squirrel, often seen foraging on ground
Diet:		nuts, seeds and berries
		occasionally vegetation, especially in spring
		occasionally bird eggs, nestling birds and insects

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2.

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Reproduction:	2 to 4 young per litter
	generally 2 litters per year
Behavior:	active during day
	natural shyness can disappear when fed
Problems:	roosting in attics, crawl spaces, etc., in homes
	eating fruit, vegetable and nut crops; digging in yard
	raiding bird feeders and other pet food
	damaging screens
Solutions:	capture and removal using live traps baited with peanuts, pecans or sunflower seeds is recommended for problems with individual animals
	removing attractant (e.g., bird food) is effective when feasible
	repellents, scare devices and ultrasonics are not effective, although taste repellents may solve short-term chewing problems to non-edible objects
	lethal control, where legal
Legal Aspects:	may be destroyed when damaging property, or during open hunting season
Fact Sheet Available:	yes