



Beavers of Florida - Quick Reference Sheet¹

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Table 1.

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| Common Name: | | Beaver |
| Other Names: | | None |
| Scientific Name: | | <i>Castor canadensis</i> |
| Appearance: | Size: | 25-30 inches from nose to base of tail, largest North American rodent |
| | Color: | silky brown fur, tail is scaly and shaped like a paddle |
| | Weight: | 30-60 pounds |
| | Other: | hind feet are webbed |
| Range: | | extends from about Levy to Duval counties, moving further south |
| Habitat: | | prefer rivers and streams with running water but also found in lakes, sloughs, and springs |
| | | build mounded stick dens or dens in banks |
| | | dens have several underwater entrances to avoid predators |
| Diet: | | feed on bark, leaves, roots, and twigs of a wide variety of plants |

1. This document is WEC-QRS-083, one of a series of the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville 32611. Publication date: June, 1991 as "Florida's Beavers". Reviewed: December, 1998. Minor Revision: August, 2001. Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

2.

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| Reproduction: | mate in pairs between December and February |
| | usually 2-4 young per litter, called kits |
| | young stay with parents until sexually mature (about two years old) |
| | family unit may consist of parents, 2-4 yearlings, and new litter |
| Behavior: | most active at night |
| | signal danger to family members by slapping their tail on water |
| Problems: | block drainage systems, flood roads and crops |
| | chew and cut down ornamental vegetation and small trees |
| | feed on crops such as sorghum and corn |
| Solutions: | capture and remove using "Bailey" live traps (suitcase-like) |
| | fence ornamental trees with woven wire fencing |
| | insert water control structures in dams to prevent flooding |
| | shoot or use wire snares (see "Legal Aspects") |
| Legal Aspects: | may be taken throughout the year by use of guns, dogs, live traps or wire snares by properly licensed individuals |
| | a furbearer license is required to sell beaver pelts. |
| Fact Sheet Available: | yes |