

The woodchuck is a member of the rodent family and is one of the most common mammals in Massachusetts. It prefers to inhabit pastures and meadows or the edges of brush woodlands. Complex burrows are dug and are used for denning and winter hibernation.

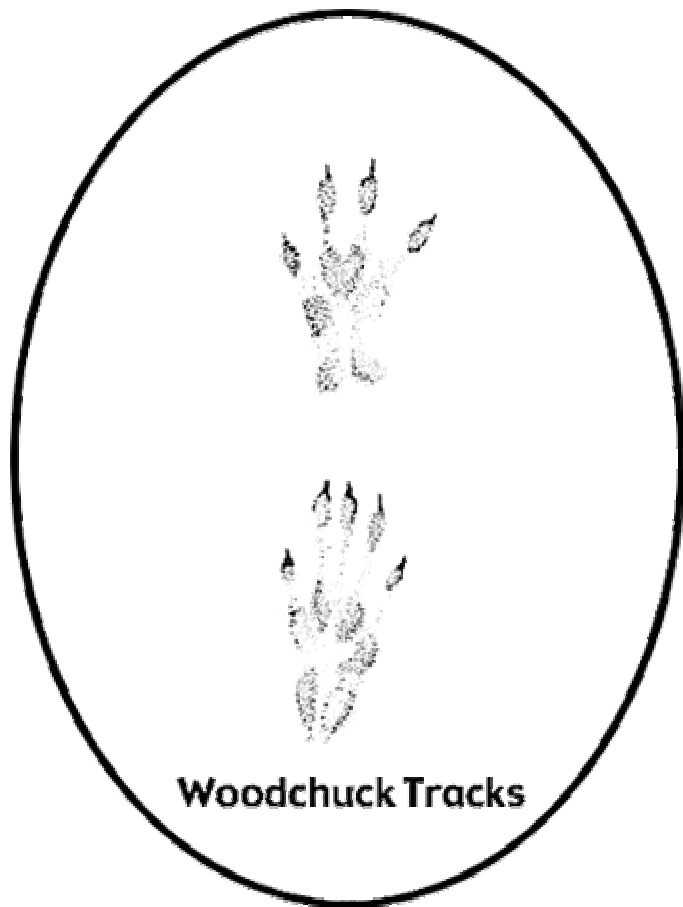
Woodchucks are most active during daylight hours and prefer to feed in the early morning or evening. They are vegetarians, and eat alfalfa, clover, grasses, leaves, dandelion buds, common chickweed, and other wild plants as well as agricultural plants such as beans, peas, carrots, and apples.



Control Abandoned woodchuck burrows offer considerable benefits to many wildlife species. They provide escape cover and dens for cottontail rabbits, foxes, and other wildlife. However, in areas where they are overabundant, woodchuck activities may conflict with man's interests, especially on farms, in gardens, orchards, or nurseries. They can do heavy damage to pea, bean, corn, and hay crops. Mounds of earth from the burrow or entrance holes may be a hazard to farm equipment as well as to horses and their riders. In spring, fruit trees and ornamental shrubs may be damaged by the woodchuck gnawing on the stems. For these reasons, control measures may be necessary.

Fencing Home gardens may be fenced to keep many animals from damaging or destroying produce. Since woodchucks are good climbers, they can easily scale wire fences. If fencing is already in place, an electric hot wire placed 5 to 6 inches off the ground and about 3 to 4 inches outside the fence will prevent woodchucks from climbing or burrowing under the wire mesh. Also, 4 to 6 inches of a fence should be buried to inhibit burrowing.

EHS does not kill native wildlife. We perform our guaranteed "Live and Let Live" Non-lethal exclusion services. Call for details.



Woodchuck Tracks

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