

# RABBITS

## BENEFITS OF RABBITS

Rabbits are crucial to maintaining a well-balanced ecosystem. In their natural environments, they serve as an essential member of the food chain, providing ecological benefits.

Through their consumption of plants, rabbits help regulate plant life. Moreover, they serve as a significant food source for many carnivorous predators, especially bobcats. As a result, rabbits play a crucial role in preserving the natural balance and harmony of the ecosystem.

## NATURAL HISTORY

- The Leporidae family consists of rabbits, which are common throughout the continental United States and can be found in various habitats, including urban areas like backyards and city parks.
- Rabbits are herbivores, with a diet consisting mainly of plants such as bark, twigs, leaves, fruit, buds, flowers, and seeds. They rarely consume arthropods, such as caterpillars, millipedes, and grubs.
- Adult common rabbits in North Texas, like the eastern cottontail, are typically solitary except when mating or raising young. A dominant male may establish a social hierarchy and do most of the breeding.
- Rabbits are primarily crepuscular, meaning they are most active at dawn and dusk, but they may also be active at night, making them nocturnal.

## TIPS FOR REDUCING HUMAN-RABBIT CONFLICTS:

- If you have a rabbit problem in your garden, try using natural repellents like human hair, garlic, and hot pepper spray. Alternatively, you can try planting natural rabbit repellents such as marigolds, lavender, and snapdragons.
- If you find an injured or sick rabbit, contact your local wildlife rehabilitation center or animal control agency for assistance. Do not attempt to care for the rabbit yourself.
- Do not use pesticides or toxic chemicals in your garden, as these can harm not only rabbits, but also other wildlife in the area.
- If you want to create a rabbit-friendly environment, you can plant native grasses and shrubs, which will provide cover and food for rabbits and other wildlife.
- Be mindful of rabbits while driving, especially during their active hours at dawn and dusk. Slow down and avoid hitting them on the road.



City of

**Saginaw**