

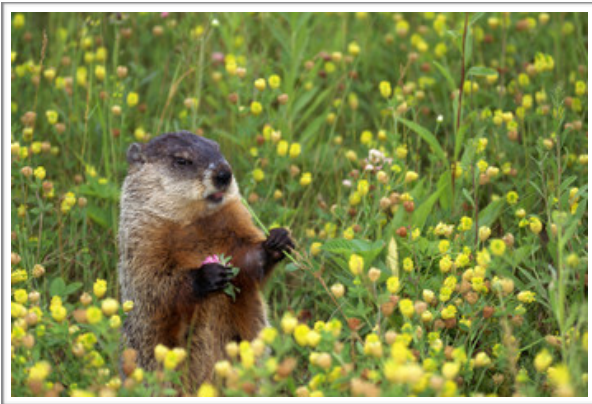
# From The Bedford Extension Master Gardener HELP DESK

Editor: Linda E., VCE Master Gardener, Help Desk Coordinator  
Sep 2015 - Bedford Area Master Gardeners Association (BAMGA)

## **QUESTION: How Do I Deal With Groundhogs In My Back Yard?**

In 2011, a client called needing help in dealing with the groundhogs in her back yard. She stated that they were digging holes into/underneath her house. She stated she had filled in the tunnel, but wanted advice or recommendations for somebody to remove the groundhogs and to double check to make sure the critters were gone.

Note: Other names for groundhogs include woodchucks, whistle-pigs and land-beavers.



[anr.ext.wvu.edu](http://anr.ext.wvu.edu)



[www3.ag.purdue.edu](http://www3.ag.purdue.edu)

## **DIAGNOSIS**

Shooting or trapping and releasing on property is not feasible in a suburban development.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Contact a licensed professional commercial wildlife control company. Gave names: All Animal Control of Roanoke and Blue Ridge Wildlife Management.

## **MORE DETAILED INFORMATION**

Effective October 2013, all Virginia extension personnel, including master gardeners staffing “hot lines,” Help Desks, or “green lines” have been asked to refer calls regarding wildlife damage and / or human-wildlife interaction to the **Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline**. This helpline is available toll free at (855) 571-9003.

It is staffed 8:00AM-4:30PM Monday through Friday. After hours or over the weekend, callers can leave a voice mail and staff should return the call the next day or at the beginning of the following week, respectively.

This helpline is a collaborative effort between the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services to address human-wildlife interactions by sharing science-based wildlife information. Data are collected on all calls and have been compiled into a database that has a comprehensive tally of damage issues (e.g., species involved, location, date, time of incident, type of incident, history of past activity/problem, recommendation offered.)

In addition, the Center for Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution is a website designed to help Virginia residents and municipal leaders identify potential sources of assistance when confronted with 'problematic wild animal concerns.'

Getting back to the original question/concern of the caller, I suspect that eventually she would have been referred to one of several licensed trappers in the area. For more information, specific to DGIF recommendations for groundhogs click on the DGIF – groundhog link below.

## RESOURCE LINKS

- Center for Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution  
<http://humanwildlife.cmi.vt.edu/index.html>
- Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (VA DGIF) Wildlife Information: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife>
- VA DGIF - groundhogs  
<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/problems/groundhogs>

Answers provided herein were based on specific situations and growing conditions.

These recommendations may or may not be appropriate for all circumstances.

For specific recommendations for your particular situation please contact your local Cooperative Extension Office.

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### MASTER GARDENER HELP DESK:

Bedford County Extension Office: (540) 586-7675 / Email @ [BedfordMG@vt.edu](mailto:BedfordMG@vt.edu)

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