

Please Don't Feed the Bears

Feeding bears, either by direct handouts or by leaving garbage, barbecue grills, pet food and bird feeders outside, leads to problems with bears.



What attracts bears

- Food and food smells (barbecue grills and compost piles)
- Garbage left outside
- Pet foods left outside

Remember: Any food source that attracts dogs, cats or raccoons will attract bears.

Did you know . . .

- Bears can smell food from more than a mile away and if they are rewarded with an easy meal, they learn quickly to return to the scene.
- Curious bears that are not rewarded with an easy meal such as garbage or pet foods will look for food away from houses.
- Bears that become used to getting human foods may damage property or become a threat to public safety. These bears often must be killed. To help avoid a needless death, please don't provide food for bears.
- Intentional feeding of bears is against Florida law – see Florida Administrative Code 68A-4.001(3).

What you can do

- Store trash in secure area until morning of pickup
- Bring pet food inside, store securely
- Protect gardens, compost and livestock with electric fencing
- Clean grills and store them in a secure area
- Remove wildlife feeders if there is a bear in the area

If you experience bear problems, contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 863-648-3200. For more information go to MyFWC.com/bear.



Florida Fish and Wildlife
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