

# RACCOONS



## PROCYON LOTOR

RATON LAVEUR, WASCHBAR

AVERAGE WEIGHT: 2-10 KG

AVERAGE LENGTH: 2-3'

LIFE EXPECTANCY: 2-3 YEARS



### NORTH AMERICAN RACCOON

Raccoons are very adaptable mammals that enjoy scavenging for food in urban areas. These **omnivores** can nourish themselves with a diverse array of food: frogs, fish, berries, mice and corn. They also find many tasty treats in human garbage and so have become very common in residential areas. As they are **nocturnal** animals, they tend to come out mostly at night and will sleep away winter in their den.



Raccoons are very opportunistic animals. Avoid leaving food (e.g., bird seed, garbage, compost and pet foods) outside to avoid tempting them into your yard.



They do not enjoy swimming or getting wet and dirty. Thus they are quite happy to avoid going in your pond. Using some of the tips on the right, you can prevent raccoons from harming your fish and aquatic plants!

## PROTECTING YOUR POND

### BLOCK ACCESS



Using planting baskets and large rocks to block their access to the pond's shallow areas.

### NOISE AND LIGHTING

Raccoons like dark and quiet. Lighting your pond area by leaving lights on overnight or motion-sensor activated lights will help. Also you can use the radio to simulate human voices overnight.



### REPELLENTS

Black pepper, bone meal and human hair will act as repellents. You can also make a spray by mixing 1 small bottle of hot sauce; 1 gallon of water; and 1 tsp. mild dishwashing detergent. Spray on your plants around the pond. Remember to reapply after rain.

### BORROW A DOG



Borrow a dog overnight or have one visit and tinkle in your garden. If this isn't an option, you can visit a hunting store and purchase animal urine (usually from predators like wolf or coyote) and spray it near the pond.

### SHELTER YOUR FISH

Make sure to provide your fish with lot's of shelter to evade predators. Using floating plants and waterlilies, and create hiding spots for the fish.