

# Rabbit

Cottontail rabbits thrive in highly vegetated or agricultural areas with plenty of grass and plants for grazing and protection. Cottontails find shelter within brush piles and other naturally occurring cover, and in extreme weather they will occupy abandoned burrows dug by other animals.

A single rabbit will spend its entire life within the same 10 acres of land, rarely venturing beyond that unless the availability of food and cover is compromised.

(Rabbit damage is often confused with that of deer, which share a very similar diet of tender vegetation. However, rabbits are much smaller than deer and possess both upper and lower incisors (which are quite strong); the damage they cause is lower to the ground and more precise than that of deer.

Keep an eye out for the following signs of rabbits:

- clean, angular cuts in leaves and stems up to 3 ft. from ground level
- stripped bark no higher than 2-3 ft.
- rabbit droppings: small dark round pellets
- rabbit tracks: two long and two short footprints)

*Thanks to <http://www.havahart.com/rabbit-facts#damage>*

Rabbits are very productive, and one female is capable of producing 20-32 babies per year. Rabbits are very damaging to yards, gardens, and small trees and shrubs. Rabbits also carry tularemia, which we did see an outbreak of in 2015 in the Mesa County Area.

