

MARSH RABBIT

Common Name: marsh rabbit

Other Names: rabbit, bunny

Scientific Name: *Sylvilagus palustris*

Appearance:

length	- about 15 inches
weight	- between 3 1/2 and 5 pounds
color	- dark chestnut brown
other	- rather short ears (about 3 inches), tail not cottony white like cottontail rabbit

Range: - statewide

Habitat: - swamps, marshes, moist forest edges, thickets

Diet: - young woody stems, many herbaceous plants, many grasses

Reproduction: - 3-4 young per litter
- 4-6 litters per year

Behavior:

- most active after dark
- most common in dense vegetation near wetland edges
- no social structure in populations

Problems:

- can be very damaging to some woody ornamentals
- damaging in vegetable gardens, especially to legumes (beans, peas) and cabbage family
- may chew bark of young trees

Solutions:

- fence around beds or plants at least two feet high
- use landscape plants less susceptible to damage
- use of live traps is often ineffective when rabbit populations are high
- use of repellents, scare devices and ultrasonics are generally ineffective
- lethal control can be effective where legal

Legal Aspects: - may be destroyed when damaging property

Printed Material in Appendix: yes