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## ***Vertebrate: Rabbits***

*Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for successful plant problem management.*

### ***Biology***

Washington State is home to several species of rabbits and hares.

Most of these species have several litters each year and populations can quickly grow to damaging proportions.

These animals are important food sources for most of our predators and some are important game animals.

On the other hand, some rabbit/hare species can be serious pests in orchards, yards and gardens.

The Eastern cottontail and the native Washington snowshoe hare are the most damaging species in most areas but feral European rabbits can be pests in suburban areas and the San Juan Islands. Their sharp incisor teeth make characteristic scars on tree bark, fruits and vegetables.

### ***Management Options***

#### **Non-Chemical Management**

- ~ Plant rabbit resistant plants.
- ~ Fencing vulnerable gardens and individual plants is most effective.
- ~ Protect young fruit trees with tree guards or wrap trunks with hardware cloth, burlap or aluminum foil  
Reduce available shelter to help minimize population size.

*Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!*

#### **Chemical Management**

*IMPORTANT: Visit Home and Garden Fact Sheets for more information on using pesticides*