

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

FERAL PIG

(*Sus scrofa*)

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS ANIMAL?

DESCRIPTION

- In B.C., any pig that is not in captivity or under a person's control is considered a feral pig. This includes:
 - Domestic pig breeds;
 - Eurasian wild boar; and
 - Hybrids
- They vary in colour; may be grey, brown, black, white, or a combination of these colours.
- They vary in weight (males 60-200 kg, females 35-150 kg).
- They may or may not have tusks.



Photo: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

SPREAD

- The Eurasian boar is the wild origin of the domesticated pig and is native to Europe, Asia and North Africa.
- Feral pigs may escape from captivity or be released intentionally for hunting.
- Once introduced into the wild, they can reproduce quickly; females can have 10+ piglets per litter, several times a year. Sexual maturity is reached at 8-12 months of age.
- Feral pigs are adaptable to a variety of habitat types and climates. They can travel great distances and often travel in groups called sounders.
- Feral pigs are opportunistic omnivores, meaning they will eat whatever is available. This includes vegetation and plant material, fungi, reptiles, amphibians, eggs of ground nesting birds, and small mammals.



Photo: Sylvia Duckworth, Wikimedia Commons

For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species>



FERAL PIG (*Sus scrofa*)

PRIMARY THREATS:

- *Destructive to agricultural land, the natural environment, and private property*
- *Compete with and prey on livestock and wildlife*
- *Degrade wetlands and impact water quality by wallowing and rooting*
- *Transmit diseases and parasites to people, livestock, and wildlife*

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DISTRIBUTION & STATUS

Within B.C., feral pigs have been reported in low numbers in the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Thompson-Okanagan, Peace, Chilcotin and Kootenay Regions. Many of these pigs were released or escaped from farms and were recaptured. Feral pigs have not yet established large populations in the province.



LOOK-ALIKES:

Feral pigs can look like Eurasian wild boar or domestic pigs. If they are not in captivity or are not otherwise under a person's control, then they are considered feral. If in doubt about ownership, check with local farmers.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Do NOT allow your pigs to free-roam in unfenced areas.
- Do NOT release pigs in the Province for any reason (it is illegal).
- Maintain fence security and monitor location of livestock.
- Raise awareness in your community.
- Feral pigs can be hunted in B.C. and harvests must be reported. However, hunting is not an effective population control method and reporting of sightings is encouraged.



DID YOU KNOW?

Feral pigs go by many different names (feral swine, wild pig, wild boar, feral hog, razorback, piney- woods roter, etc.). They may be descended from domesticated pigs, wild boar released for hunting, or a combination of both!

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