



The Ontario Wildlife Foundation  
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[www.ontwf.org](http://www.ontwf.org)

Conserve Natural Habitats • Promote and Participate in Conservation Education • Encourage Outdoor Recreation

## Rabbits in your garden

The average cottontail rabbit only lives about 3 years, but they breed like...well, rabbits! A single rabbit produces up to 18 offspring a year. Once established in an area, the number of these cute critters that will visit your garden grows quickly. It won't take long for your vegetable garden to be reduced to nothing once they have discovered it.

A few thoughtful steps can be taken to reduce their impact without searching for the top ten recipes for rabbit stew.



### Plant Vegetables They Hate

There aren't many plants that are reliably rabbit-proof, but planting crops they aren't usually drawn to may send them elsewhere. Good candidates include peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes, corn and squash.

### Planting Vegetables They Love

Planting their favourites (beans, peas, parsley or rosemary) in a raised bed may help save your sanity as well as your crops!

### Good Fences Make Good Neighbours

A wire fence, even if it is only two or three feet high, will keep your potential thieves away. Just remember, when installing the fencing to bury the bottom by trenching down six inches to discourage them from digging their way in.

### Habitat Control

Taking away attractive locations to settle will help them move on as well. Remove brush or lawn debris and keep grass mowed. In areas where natural habitats are limited, this may be all it takes to keep your gardens rabbit free.

## National Forest Week

This year National Forest Week is celebrated from September 18th - 24th.

What began as Forest Fire Prevention Week in 1920 underwent a name change in 1967. This week is a chance for Canadians to explore our many forests. Take some time to learn about the historical, cultural, economic and environmental role of our forests.

Many communities across the country will have activities that celebrate National Forest Week. Check with your local municipality website for events or plan your own! Arrange a tree planting, host a forest fire prevention class, or plan a group visit to a wooded area.

This may also be a great time for you to take the initiative to plant a tree in your own yard. Trees have many benefits; they can act as windbreakers, provide soil stabilization, create wildlife habitat and build a healthier ecosystem. Wednesday, September 21, is Canada's fifth National Tree Day.

## Have you hugged a tree today?



a magazine from the Ontario Wildlife Foundation

**A great gift idea! Do you have a young outdoor enthusiast in your family?**

Getting kids connected to nature is more important than ever. Spending time outdoors at a young age is crucial to fostering a healthy conservation ethic.

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## Name that tree species

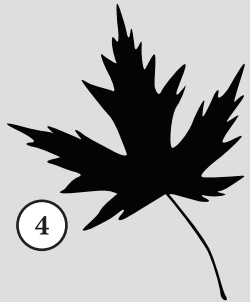
Using the clues and the silhouette of the leaves shown below name these trees:

The national tree of Canada. Produces the sweetest sap of all trees of its species.



Wood from this tree is waterproof, so it's used to make barrels for storing liquids.

This tree gets its name from its bark, which is a golden yellow for much of its life.



The seeds from this tree are found in "keys" that fall down from the tree in the late spring.

With a shallow, fibrous root system, this tree is one of the easiest of its species to transplant.



This tree thrives after forest fires. The heat opens up the cones to release seeds, and kills off competing plants.

- Answers:
1. Sugar Maple
  2. White Oak
  3. Yellow Birch
  4. Silver Maple
  5. Pin Oak
  6. Jack Pine

## Stargazing is for everyone

Staring at the vast sky will fill you with a feeling of wonder and joy. Grab a lawn chair and/or a pair of binoculars and head outside for a night of stargazing.

### STARGAZING TIPS:

- We spend most of our time looking straight ahead. Take a break and look up – see what you've been missing.
- Use the moon as a point of reference – its orbit around Earth is regular and predictable.
- Star charts are available at your local library or on your phone (there's an app for that).
- A pair of binoculars will help you enjoy the view. Hold off on the telescope until you're hooked!
- Watch for constellations among the star patterns.
- Find a dark-sky site or try a provincial park in your area. Astronomy is a fun hobby to share with friends and family.
- Check local schools, museums, and planetariums to see what stargazing programs they are hosting.
- Keep watching. Star gazing can become a lifelong hobby. The sky changes in subtle ways from day to day and year to year. You'll make a connection with nature that will last a lifetime.

### PLACES TO GO:

- The grounds of the David Dunlap Observatory in Richmond Hill. They run star-viewing nights almost every Saturday night.
- The Bayview Reservoir Park (near Bayview Avenue & Sycamore Drive), Thornhill.
- Leslie Street Spit Park, High Park and Bayview Village Park are also great stargazing locations in Toronto.
- Ontario Dark Sky Preserve, Gravenhurst.
- Gordon's Park on Manitoulin Island.
- Point Pelee National Park.
- Torrence Barrens, Muskoka.
- Blue Water Outdoors Education Center, South Bruce Peninsula.
- Bruce Peninsula Fathom Five National Marine Park.

### SPENDING TIME IN THE DARK:

Light pollution makes stargazing more difficult and studies show it can cause health problems. Artificial light at night can throw off the body's natural rhythm, and has been linked with sleep disorders, obesity, heart disease and depression in humans, but can also affect wildlife. Excessive lighting at night causes millions of migratory birds in North America each year to die after flying into brightly lit buildings. So get out side and look up!

