



Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

BEAR SAFETY IN MIND



HUNTER'S EDITION

Bill Ford

PREVENT BEAR CONFLICTS

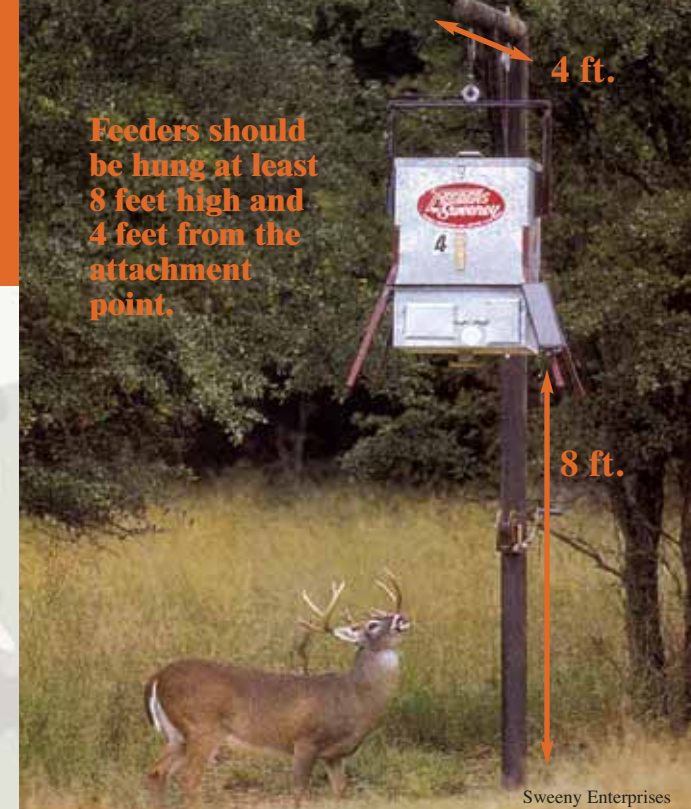
- Keep hunting camps clean to prevent odors that will attract bears.
- Discard gut piles far away from campsites.
- Placing deer corn in piles or in open feeders will attract more bears.
- Using an automated feeder hung out of reach of bears will decrease bear visitation.
- Switching bait types from corn to soybeans will reduce bear activity.
- Planting food plots is the best way to attract deer and avoid bear visits!

Electric fencing will deter bears while allowing deer access to feeders.



Walt Cotton

Feeders should be hung at least 8 feet high and 4 feet from the attachment point.



Sweeny Enterprises

IT'S THE LAW!

- Hog hunters, BEWARE! Hogs and bears can look very similar. Know your target!
- It is a violation of law to kill a black bear in Texas, with penalties of up to \$10,000, added civil restitution fines, jail time and loss of all hunting privileges.

To report information that could lead to the arrest of anyone killing a black bear, please call the 24-hour toll-free TPWD Poaching Hotline at **1-800-792-4263**.

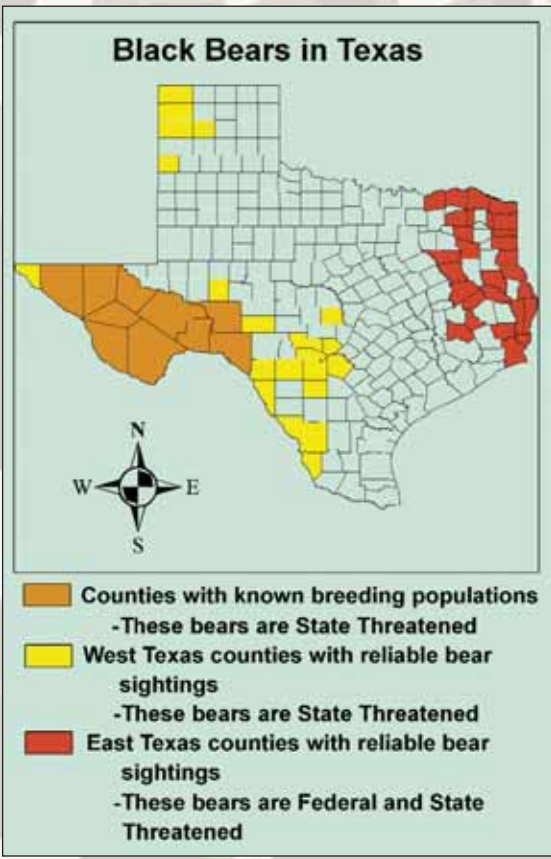


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BLACK BEAR FACTS

- ❧ The black bear is a protected and rare species in the state of Texas.
- ❧ Male bears weigh 150 to over 350 lbs., and females weigh 120 to 250 lbs.
- ❧ Male home ranges average 20,000 acres, while females average 5,000 acres.
- ❧ Denning can start as early as November and continue until late May.

- ❧ Bears den in large, hollow trees, brush piles, thickets, rock crevices and caves.
- ❧ Denning bears go into a deep sleep but can be aroused if disturbed.
- ❧ Females mature at three to five years of age and, on average, have two cubs every other year.
- ❧ Cubs are born in the den weighing 8 ounces and will exit the den weighing 4 pounds.
- ❧ Cubs stay with their mother for 1-1/2 years.
- ❧ Bears are opportunistic feeders and will eat almost anything that is available.
- ❧ Up to 90 percent of a bear's diet is vegetable material, which includes nuts, fruits, berries and plants.
- ❧ Most of the protein in a bear's diet comes from insects like beetles, wasps, termites and ants.
- ❧ Prime bear habitat includes escape cover, dispersal corridors, diverse foods and dens.



A small bear population is located in western Texas and a few individual bears have been sighted in other parts of the state.



IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR

- ❧ **NEVER APPROACH A BEAR!**
- ❧ Bears are normally shy and not aggressive to humans.
- ❧ If a bear regularly visits your deer stand, scare it with rocks, a slingshot or air horn.
- ❧ If you encounter a bear at close range, talk in a calm manner while backing away slowly. Do not make direct eye contact.
- ❧ DO NOT RUN! This can trigger a bear's chase instinct.
- ❧ If a bear approaches you, stand your ground and raise your arms, backpack or jacket to appear larger. Yell at the bear to scare it off.
- ❧ If attacked, fight back aggressively with anything available. Let the bear know you are not easy prey. DO NOT PLAY DEAD!

TO REPORT A BEAR ENCOUNTER

Call the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department:

1-800-792-1112

Or call your TPWD Regional Office:

- West Texas (Alpine) (432) 837-2051
- Central Texas (Kerrville) (830) 896-2500
- East Texas (Tyler) (903) 566-1626
- North Texas (Canyon) (806) 655-3782
- South Texas (Pleasanton) (830) 569-8700



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE BLACK BEAR:



Black Bear Conservation Committee
 (225) 763-5425
www.bbcc.org



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