

Resident Canada Goose Control Information

Homeowners and Property Managers

If you are a homeowner or property manager experiencing problems with Canada geese, you can obtain a free permit to destroy nests and/or treat eggs on your property. Simply register on-line with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) at <https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx>. You must register prior to destroying nests or eggs. Considerable flexibility is allowed regarding who can do the nest and egg work on which types of properties; check the “Frequently Asked Questions” tab on this web site for further information. You can obtain detailed information on how to destroy nests and/or treat eggs on this web site by clicking on the “Management of Canada goose nesting” tab. Nests and eggs may be taken at any time. You must return to the web site by October 31, to report the number of nests and eggs destroyed, even if none were destroyed that year.

A federal depredation permit can be issued for the lethal control of Canada geese that are causing damage to property, such as lawns or beaches. The application for a federal depredation permit can be downloaded from www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-13.pdf. For more information on applying for federal depredation permits issued to control geese that are causing property damage contact the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services section at 908-735-5654.

Airports

In order to resolve or prevent hazards caused by geese, airports may employ the following control methods: nest and egg destruction, gosling and adult trapping and culling programs, and other lethal or non-lethal control strategies. Permits issued by the USFWS will continue to be required for airports wishing to control geese throughout the year.

Nests and eggs may be destroyed at any time by registering at <https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx>. A more liberal depredation order for lethal control can be employed between April 1 and September 15 when only Resident Population Canada geese are present. Additional details concerning the airport depredation order can be found at:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-21/subpart-D/section-21.159>

Farmers

Farmers and their employees, who are actively farming may control geese by destroying nests and/or eggs, by trapping and killing geese, or with other lethal and nonlethal wildlife-damage permits issued to control geese that are causing crop damage contact the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services section at 908-735-5654.

New Jersey Fish and Wildlife may issue a free permit to farmers for the lethal control of geese between April 1 and August 31. The permit must be obtained prior to implementing any control program. Additional information on the agricultural depredation order can be found at:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-21/subpart-D/section-21.165>

Contact Anthony McBride at 908-735-8793 or Tony.McBride@dep.nj.us for more information.

Lake Communities

Municipalities, lake associations and county parks may apply to New Jersey Fish and Wildlife for a permit to control Canada goose when the geese are causing a direct threat to human health in lakes or ponds that are used for swimming. The permit applicant must submit a letter from the state, county or local health department stating that Canada geese are causing the health threat by creating conditions conducive to the transmission of pathogens. The permit applicant must describe the control method to be used, the agent carrying out the control method, agent qualifications and method of disposal or donation of geese. Control techniques may be employed April 1 – August 31. Culled geese may be by donated to museums or public institutions for scientific or educational purposes, processed for human consumption and subsequent distribution free of charge to charitable organizations, or buried or incinerated. Euthanasia must be by means approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines on Euthanasia. Additional information on the Public Health depredation order can be found at: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-21/subpart-D/section-21.168> For additional assistance contact Lisa Clark at Lisa.Clark@dep.nj.gov or 609-508-3760.

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