



WHITE-TAILED DEER

Michigan State Mammal

WHY IT IS BEST TO AVOID FEEDING DEER

Habituation and Loss of Fear

Feeding deer can cause them to lose their natural fear of humans, making them less wary and potentially leading to dangerous situations for both people and animals.

Concentration and Disease

Feeding can attract large numbers of deer to a small area, increasing the risk of disease transmission and competition for resources.

Nuisance and Damage

Deer that are fed can become a nuisance, damaging gardens, landscaping, and even vehicles, as they seek out food sources.

Increased Vehicle Collisions

Deer that are accustomed to feeding in areas near roads are more likely to be hit by vehicles.

Disrupted Natural Behavior

Feeding deer disrupts their natural foraging behavior and can lead to malnutrition if they rely on human-provided food instead of their natural diet.

Attracting Predators

Feeding deer can also attract predators, like cougars, which can be dangerous for both the deer and humans.

Illegal in Some Areas

In some areas, feeding deer is illegal, and violators can face fines.