

PREDATOR/PEST BALANCE

A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO PEST CONTROL IN THE GARDEN

PREDATOR / PEST ANALYSIS

One of the most effective ways to manage a pest infestation is to let its natural predators do the work for you. When identifying a pest, ask yourself, "What eats this?" By supporting or introducing those predators through appropriate habitat, access, acquisition, or wildlife corridors, you disrupt the pest's ability to feed and reproduce on your property. Over time, pest populations decline and often move on in search of easier conditions elsewhere. Using the lists below, check all the boxes of the predators that are on or around your property, and check all the boxes of the pests that infest or invade your property.

PREDATOR / PEST ANALYSIS	
EXISTING PREDATORS: Carnivorous species that preys upon other species.	EXISTING PESTS: Species that are commonly invasive
<p>LARGE PREDATORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bears <input type="checkbox"/> Bobcat <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote <input type="checkbox"/> Dogs (livestock guardians / property protection) <input type="checkbox"/> Fox <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Lion / Cougar / Puma <input type="checkbox"/> Owl <input type="checkbox"/> Predatory birds (Hawk, falcon, eagle, crow) <input type="checkbox"/> Wolf <p>SMALL PREDATORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bats <input type="checkbox"/> Ducks <input type="checkbox"/> Frogs & Toads <input type="checkbox"/> Housecat (Indoor/Outdoor) <input type="checkbox"/> Lizards <input type="checkbox"/> Opossums (primary predator of ticks) <input type="checkbox"/> Raccoons & Skunks <input type="checkbox"/> Snakes <input type="checkbox"/> Weasels <p>INSECT ALLIES & ARTHROPOD PREDATORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Dragonflies <input type="checkbox"/> Lacewings <input type="checkbox"/> Lady Bugs <input type="checkbox"/> Praying Mantids <input type="checkbox"/> Spiders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ants <input type="checkbox"/> Aphids <input type="checkbox"/> Bears <input type="checkbox"/> Beetles (plant-damaging species) <input type="checkbox"/> Cockroaches <input type="checkbox"/> Coyotes <input type="checkbox"/> Deer <input type="checkbox"/> Flies <input type="checkbox"/> Foxes / Weasels <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit & berry eating birds <input type="checkbox"/> Gophers <input type="checkbox"/> Grasshoppers <input type="checkbox"/> Mice / Rats / Voles <input type="checkbox"/> Mites <input type="checkbox"/> Mosquitoes <input type="checkbox"/> Predatory Birds (when preying on poultry/pets) <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbits <input type="checkbox"/> Raccoons <input type="checkbox"/> Skunks <input type="checkbox"/> Snails, Slugs & Grubs <input type="checkbox"/> Spiders (when indoors) <input type="checkbox"/> Squirrels <input type="checkbox"/> Stray Cats / Dogs <input type="checkbox"/> Termites <input type="checkbox"/> Wasps

PREDATOR BASED PEST MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST
<p><i>Predator-based pest control works best when multiple predators are supported simultaneously and when pest pressure is reduced through fear, presence, and habitat balance, not eradication.</i></p> <p><i>(Check all that you intend to utilize or apply to your property)</i></p> <p>HABITAT & NESTING STRATEGIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Install owl nesting boxes <input type="checkbox"/> Install bat houses <input type="checkbox"/> Add raptor perches (hawks, kestrels) <input type="checkbox"/> Preserve or install songbird nesting habitat (hedgerows, shrubs) <input type="checkbox"/> Retain safe standing dead trees (snags) for cavity nesters <p>SCENT, PRESENCE & TERRITORIAL DETERRENENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Apply predator urine (coyote, fox, wolf) along boundaries (Can be purchased online) <input type="checkbox"/> Disperse clay-based kitty litter as scent markers <input type="checkbox"/> Spread pet fur or dog hair in garden and livestock areas <input type="checkbox"/> Rotate scent locations regularly to avoid habituation <input type="checkbox"/> Mark property boundaries regularly with dogs <p>E & AMPHIBIAN ENCOURAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create rock piles, stone walls, or brush piles <input type="checkbox"/> Create and encourage gopher snake habitat <input type="checkbox"/> Install slow water features for frogs and toads <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid rodenticides and broad-spectrum poisons <p>ACTIVE DETERRENENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Use guardian dogs or property dogs <input type="checkbox"/> Rotate forage in gardens and orchards <input type="checkbox"/> Use territorial alarms where appropriate <p>R SUPPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Plant pollen plants for beneficial insects <input type="checkbox"/> Add mulch for ground predators <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid pesticides that harm beneficial insects <p>FLOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create paths across the property <input type="checkbox"/> Create diverse habitats (forest/meadow, pond/land) <input type="checkbox"/> Use markers to guide predator movement

FREE WORKSHEETS TO HELP YOU ASSESS YOUR GARDEN'S PREDATOR/PEST BALANCE, WITH TIPS AND TRICKS TO HELP YOU CHANGE THE WAY YOU MANAGE UNWANTED PESTS!

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PREDATOR BASED PEST MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

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(Check all that you intend to utilize or apply to your property)

HABITAT & NESTING STRATEGIES

- Install owl nesting boxes
- Install bat houses
- Add raptor perches (hawks, kestrels)
- Preserve or install songbird nesting habitat (hedgerows, shrubs)
- Retain safe standing dead trees (snags) for cavity nesters

SCENT, PRESENCE & TERRITORIAL DETERRENTS

- Apply predator urine (coyote, fox, wolf) along boundaries (Can be purchased online)
- Disperse clay-based kitty litter as scent markers
- Spread pet fur or dog hair in garden and livestock areas
- Rotate scent locations regularly to avoid habituation
- Walk property boundaries regularly with dogs

REPTILE & AMPHIBIAN ENCOURAGEMENT

- Build rock piles, stone walls, or brush piles
- Protect and encourage gopher snake habitat
- Add shallow water features for frogs and toads
- Eliminate rodenticides and broad-spectrum poisons

GUARDIAN & ACTIVE DETERRENTS

- Use livestock guardian dogs or property dogs
- Allow ducks to forage in gardens and orchards
- Use geese as territorial alarms where appropriate

INSECT PREDATOR SUPPORT

- Plant nectar and pollen plants for beneficial insects
- Leave leaf litter and mulch for ground predators
- Install insect hotels
- Avoid chemical sprays that harm beneficial insects

LANDSCAPE DESIGN & FLOW

- Create wildlife corridors across the property
- Design and preserve edge habitats (forest/meadow, pond/land)
- Use fencing strategically to guide predator movement

COMMON PESTS & THEIR PREDATORS

Ants	Ground beetles, birds, (woodpeckers, songbirds), lizards
Aphids	Ladybugs, lacewings, parasitic wasps, nectar plantings
Cockroaches	Lizards, frogs & toads, spiders, ground beetles
Coyotes	Dogs, llamas, human presence, & scent marking
Deer	Predator urine (coyote/wolf), dog scent
Flies	Ducks, frogs & toads, dragonflies, parasitic wasps
Fruit Eating Birds	Raptor perches, owl boxes, nearby predator habitat
Gophers	Gopher snakes, barn owls, hawks, dogs
Grubs	Ground beetles, birds, chickens
Mice / Rats / Voles	Owl boxes, raptor perches, gopher snakes, brush piles
Mosquitoes	Bat houses, dragonflies, frogs & toads, fish in ponds
Rabbits	Predator scent, dogs, raptors, snakes (juveniles)
Raccoons, skunks	Dogs, coyote scent, predator urine
Slugs & Snails	Ducks, ground beetles, frogs & toads, leaf litter habitat
Spiders (indoors)	Outdoor predator balance; reduce insect prey
Squirrels	Hawks & owls, dogs, rotating predator scents

BEST PREDATORS FOR PROPERTY PESTS

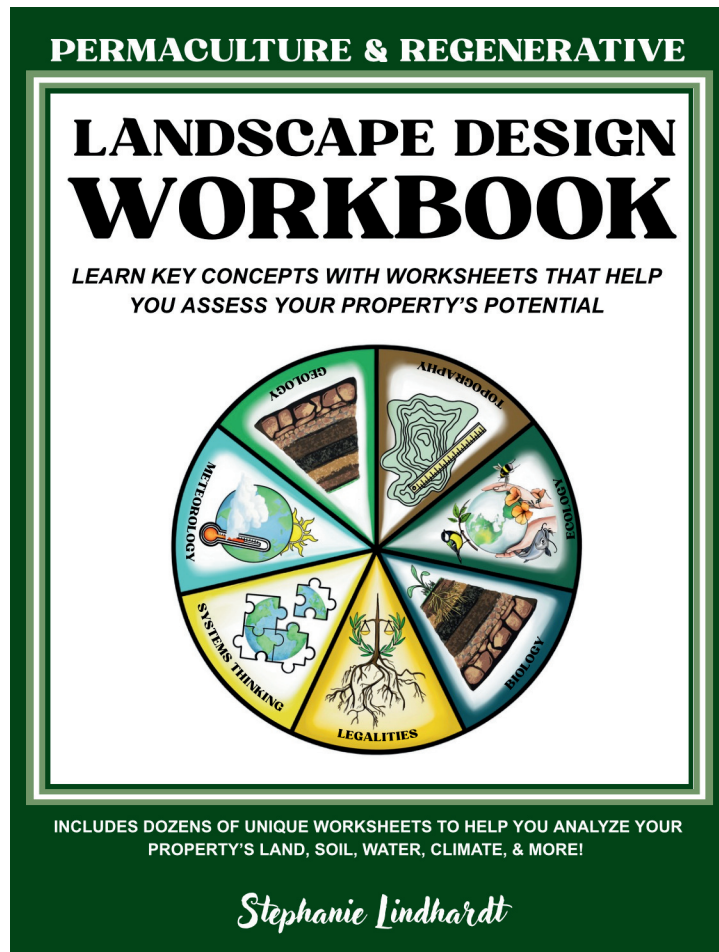
LIST THE PREDATORS YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH TO HELP MITIGATE PROPERTY PESTS, AND THEIR PRIMARY HABITAT AND PLANT PREFERENCES. THESE WILL BE PLANTS THAT YOU WILL WANT TO DESIGN WITH

PREDATOR	PLANT PREFERENCES FOR HABITAT OR FOOD

FOR MORE WORKSHEETS LIKE THIS CHECK OUT MY BOOK:

“PERMACULTURE & REGENERATIVE LANDSCAPE DESIGN WORKBOOK”

BY STEPHANIE LINDHARDT



With step-by-step instructions, the workbook is organized into seven foundational sectors: Legalties, Systems Thinking, Climate, Topography, Ecology, Geology, and Biology, each with unique worksheets that help you gather the real data needed to create resilient gardens and foodscapes!

