

# **NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife**

## **Resident Population Canada Goose Control Information**

### **Background**

Canada geese are migratory birds which occur throughout most of the continental United States. Although Canada geese are a valuable natural resource, their overabundance can cause property damage in some cases. There are a suite of non-lethal and lethal techniques for managing Canada goose damage which can be found at the web pages below. Integrated Management Programs which use several techniques are usually the most successful.

<http://www.berrymaninstitute.org/files/uploads/pdf/geese.pdf>

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage/sa\\_reports/ct\\_wildlife+damage+management+technical+series](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage/sa_reports/ct_wildlife+damage+management+technical+series)

There are several federal Depredation Orders which are described below that are available for various property managers that can be used to manage Canada goose damage.

### **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 only be taken between March 1 and June 30. 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](http://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 March 1 –June 30 by registering at <https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx>. Permits may be issued by the Division of Fish and Wildlife for lethal control employed between April 1 and September 15. Only shotguns with nontoxic shot may be used.

## **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 management strategies, when the geese are causing damage to agricultural crops, and to prevent damage to agricultural crops. Geese may be taken only on land which the farmer personally controls and where geese are causing damage to agricultural crops. Only shotguns with nontoxic shot may be used. Nests and eggs may be destroyed March 1 – June 30 by registering at <https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx>.

A federal depredation permit can be issued for the lethal control of Canada geese that are causing damage to farm crops. The application for a federal depredation permit can be downloaded from [www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-13.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-13.pdf). For more information on applying for federal depredation permits issued to control geese that are causing crop damage contact the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services section at 908-735-5654

The state Division of Fish and Wildlife may issue a free permit to farmers for the lethal control of geese between May 1 and August 31. The permit must be obtained prior to implementing any control program. Contact Anthony McBride at 908-735-8793 or [anthonymcbride@earthlink.net](mailto:anthonymcbride@earthlink.net) for more information.

## **Lake Communities**

Municipalities, lake associations and county parks may apply to the Division of 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.

Updated August 2016