

## California Ground Squirrel

Ground squirrels live in colonies in open areas where they can burrow, and are present in most agricultural and rural areas in California. They are also found around buildings, gardens and industrial sites.

### For ground squirrels burrowing in your yard:

- Place hardware cloth (1/4 inch or 1/2 inch mesh) to a depth of 18-20 inches around small plots of individual ornamental plants and trees.
- Remove brush piles and debris, reduce cover, and control weeds to make the area more open and to remove food sources.
- Encourage raptors such as hawks and owls by erecting a raptor perch or pole.

### For ground squirrels eating plants:

- Wrap tree and shrub trunks with commercial tree wrap.
- Spray rodent repellent on ornamental plants, which has an extremely bitter taste (may include Benzylidylethyl as an active ingredient). Cribbing spray and Roepel are available commercially. Avoid using gas cartridges and anticoagulants, which can poison non-target species directly or secondarily. Squirrel burrows are used by a wide variety of wildlife species.

## Striped Skunks

The common skunk is another creature of the night that, like the raccoon, eats a wide variety of foods. A skunk typically will not use its most famous feature, its odor, unless provoked. Skunks digging in lawns are a common problem in suburban areas. To keep skunks away from your yard, follow the general tips on page 2, particularly regarding grub infestations. Keeping garbage and pet food inaccessible is especially important, as well as screening vents and crawl spaces.

If a skunk sprays you or your pet, mix together into solution (but not in a closed container, as it's potentially volatile): 1 quart 3% hydrogen peroxide, 1/4 cup baking soda, 1 tsp. Dawn dish detergent.



Apply immediately, keeping it out of the animal's eyes, nose and mouth. Leave for several minutes and rinse with water. This amount is enough for a small dog. You should double the ingredients for medium dogs and triple for large dogs. Apply several times if needed. Commercial deodorizers are available from veterinarians and feed stores.