

Pecans & Squirrels

Is it just me or is there an over abundant squirrel population this year? I have a few pecan trees in my back yard by my patio and when I go out every morning to drink my coffee I have to be careful not to step or set on one of the ornery little critters. Yes they are that thick and they have just destroyed the pecans on the huge pecan tree I have that covers my patio, plus I have to sweep half eaten green pecans off my deck continuously. What to do? Shoot, trap, use repellents?

My Grandad loved fried squirrel, but his favorite part was the brains. He would scramble them in a skillet with salt and pepper immediately when he got back to the house from hunting, no matter what time of day it was. He would carry on while eating them like a kid slurping ice cream. He had a little squirrel dog and it was nothing for him to bring in a half dozen to dozen each time he went hunting. He passed away in 1990 but if he were alive today I'm sure I wouldn't have the squirrel problem I now have at my place. Today folks turn up their nose at eating squirrel or rabbits but back in the day that was a pretty dang good meal, better than a nasty ole chicken for sure. The only thing better was fried frog legs and calf fries! No we were not so poor that we had to eat wild critters or fish. Dad killed a calf and a porky every year, and we always had meat in the freezer. No we just loved to hunt and Dad always said "you eat what you kill" so we had a steady diet of critters, that is if Mom would let them in her kitchen. Dad got overruled several times.. Ha!

So how do we keep squirrels from ruining our pecans, making a mess under our shade trees, bird feeders and getting into our attics? If you live in town hunting is probably out due to firearm laws. You cannot use a BB or Pellet gun on game animals and squirrels are game animals but in Texas it's open season all year. You could trap as long as you use a live trap, not a steel trap because that's just cruel (they love crunchy peanut butter). Then you could turn them out of the live trap out in the country to make sure those folks don't run out of squirrels. You can put a piece of sheet metal around the trunk wide enough(6 ft) to stop them from climbing the tree, but then you need to trim your trees where they won't jump from another tree, structure or wire(by the way I saw a squirrel jump over 10 feet one time). You can use moth balls, different pepper mixes and sprays, ole Doc's Squirrel Chaser, Coyote Urine, Ultrasonic repellents including a solar unit now, motion activated Owl Decoy, Flaming Squirrel Seed Sauce, or you could try the guaranteed Shake-Away(predator urine granules) at Shake-away.com. Or you can just throw your hands up and let them have at it! Either way good luck with these pesky, annoying, aggravating, flat out mean, Little Critters called Squirrels!

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