

P.O. Box 278  
Emory, TX 75440  
(903) 473-4580

From: Stephen Gowin  
CEA-Agriculture  
Rains County

The armadillo is probably the most recognizable Texas symbol and has been on ads, billboards, and commercials. That's not the same armadillo that is destroying my lawn. Armadillo's feed on insects and other invertebrates, by doing so they can tear up a lawn pretty quickly.

Armadillos are active primarily from twilight hours through early morning hours in the summer. In the winter they are more active in the daytime hours. Armadillos are burrowing animals; burrows are commonly located in rock piles, around stumps, or around brush piles. Armadillos dig a number of burrows within an area to use for escape. More than 90% of their diet is insect matter. They feed on earthworms, scorpions, spiders, and other invertebrates.

Trapping is an effective way to capture armadillos, although they can sometimes be difficult to catch because they are so unpredictable. Live traps need to be placed on trails near fences or besides buildings. If the burrow is located, the trap should be placed at the entrance. Trapping can be more effective if two long boards are used on both sides of the trap to funnel the animal into it.

Due to their poor eyesight once the armadillo hits the board at the end of the funnel they will usually work their way straight into the trap. It is not usually necessary to bait the traps in funnels are used. If bait is desired, use over-ripe or spoiled fruit because it attracts flies and other insects. Other baits that can be used are earthworms or fishing worms secured in a nylon stocking.

Another consideration that needs to be made is why the armadillo is digging up your yard. Again, that is because they are searching for food. Therefore, we need to remove their food source by using insecticides to destroy insect population in our yards. If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call.

The information herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended or no endorsement by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

