

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

FERAL PIG (*Sus scrofa*)

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES
www.reportinvasives.ca

* In BC, feral pigs are previously domesticated pigs, or their descendants. Feral refers to pigs of the genus *Sus* that are not in captivity or are not otherwise under a person's control.

NATIVE RANGE

The Eurasian boar is the wild origin of the domesticated pig and is native to Europe, Asia and North Africa. Domesticated pigs and wild boar have been introduced all over the world for farming and hunting.



DESCRIPTION

Feral pigs...

- Vary drastically in appearance (size, weight, colour etc.)
- Appear like domestic pigs
- Vary in colour (typically grey, brown or black)
- Vary in weight (males 60-200 kg, females 35-150 kg)

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Feral pigs...

- Are destructive to crops and private property
- Can prey upon livestock such as goats and sheep
- Can spread diseases and parasites, including swine brucellosis and pseudorabies, which can have devastating effects on livestock and wildlife
- Dig up roots and rub against trees, affecting ecosystem processes from the soil up
- Create wallows (mud pits) that can affect pond and wetland structure
- Compete with native wildlife for food
- Feed on reptiles, eggs of ground nesting birds, and small mammals

(over)



PRIMARY IMPACT:
Feral pigs damage agricultural crops through foraging, and can transmit diseases and parasites to people, livestock, and wildlife.

DID YOU KNOW?

Feral pigs go by many different names (feral swine, wild pig, wild boar, feral hog, razorback, piney-woods rooter etc.). They may be descended from domesticated pigs, wild boar released for hunting, or a combination of both!

FERAL PIG (*Sus scrofa*)



PHOTO BY MANFRED MANSKE
AT WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

BIOLOGY & SPREAD

Feral pigs may escape from captivity or be released intentionally for hunting. Once introduced, feral pigs can reproduce quickly, as each female can have 10+ piglets per litter, several times a year. They can live in a variety of habitat types as long as there is sufficient water and food.

HABITAT

Feral pigs are considered adaptable to a variety of habitat types. They are limited however by deep snow which affects foraging, and access to water. Feral pigs often travel in groups, preferring riparian areas with sufficient water. Within B.C., feral pigs could continue to spread into a variety of regions, specifically Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, along with the Central-Southern Interior.

ARE THEY HERE YET?

Yes. Within B.C., feral pigs have been reported in low numbers in the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Thompson-Okanagan, Peace, Chilcotin and Kootenay Regions. Feral pigs have not yet established large populations in the province.

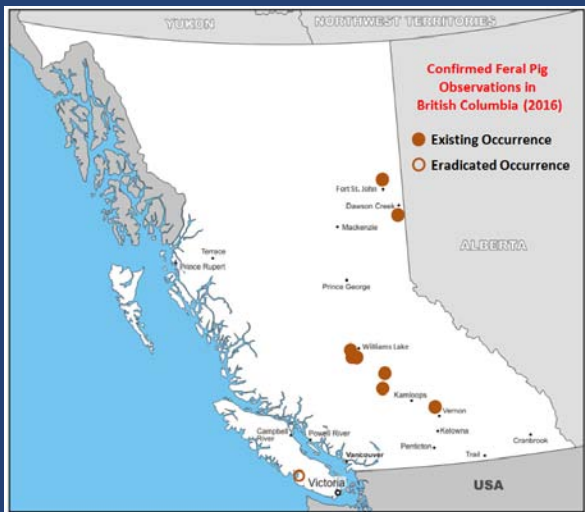
HOW CAN WE STOP THEM?

Prevention:

- Do not leave out attractants such as garbage or any form of potential food
- Maintain fence security and monitor location of livestock
- Do not release feral pigs in the province (It is illegal!)
- Raise awareness to avoid further spread
- Removal
- Feral pigs can be hunted in B.C.

LOOK-ALIKES

Feral pigs can be mistaken for domestic pigs as they look very similar. If they are not in captivity or are not otherwise under a person's control then they can be considered feral. If in doubt, check with local farmers to determine if they are indeed feral.



WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND ONE?

Report feral pigs, or any other invasive species via the **Report Invasives phone app**, or via the **webform** available on the B.C. Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group website:

www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

