

# Nonnative Species: Wild Hogs



## General Information

Wild hogs (*Sus scrofa*), also called wild pigs, wild boars or feral pigs, are not native to Florida. They were introduced to the state as early as 1539 by Spanish explorers, and today wild hogs occur in all of Florida's 67 counties across a wide variety of habitats. Wild hogs breed year-round, producing up to two litters and as many as 26 young each year. They can roam for miles and often travel in groups called "sounders," consisting of several adult females and their offspring. These traits make it extremely difficult to completely remove wild hogs from large tracts of land.

Wild hogs are omnivores that use their broad snouts to "root" for food below the soil's surface. Rooting by just a few individuals can turn over large areas of soil in just one night, resulting in resource impacts and property damage including:

- Competition for food with native wildlife such as deer, squirrels and turkeys.
- Destruction of native vegetation in sensitive wetland habitats.
- Consumption of agricultural crops, livestock feed, tree seeds and saplings.
- Damage to lawns and landscaping on private property.
- Predation of nests and young of ground nesting birds, turtles and mammals, as well as young domestic livestock.

Wild hogs can carry parasites and diseases including but not limited to pseudorabies and swine brucellosis, which can be transmitted to livestock, pets and people. For more information about precautions to take, please visit the [FWC Wildlife Health web page](#).

Additional information about wild hogs can also be found at [MyFWC.com](#) on the [Species Profile](#) web page.



Courtesy: FWC



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## What can you do to reduce conflicts with wild hogs?

- Motion-activated lights or alarms are typically unsuccessful but can provide temporary results.
- Electric fencing can keep hogs out of small yards and gardens. Place electric fence on your property with at least two strands that total 2-3 feet in height.
- Hog panel fencing between 24 and 32 inches tall is effective but may be costly to install and maintain.

## Regulatory status

The wild hog, a species that is popular to hunt, is defined in FWC regulations as a hog that is free-roaming and which cannot be legally claimed as a domestic hog in private ownership. The transportation and holding of live wild hogs is regulated by the [Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#).

## Options for taking wild hogs

### Hunting

On private property with written landowner permission, wild hogs may be hunted year-round with no fees, licenses or permits required. Wild hogs may be shot during the day and at night with a gun and light. Hunters may use dogs and any legal rifle, shotgun, crossbow, bow, or pistol; wild hogs of either sex may be harvested and there is no size or bag limit. Hunting dogs must wear collars that identify the owner's name and address. To learn more about hunting wild hogs in Florida, please visit the [FWC wild hog hunting web page](#).

## Trapping

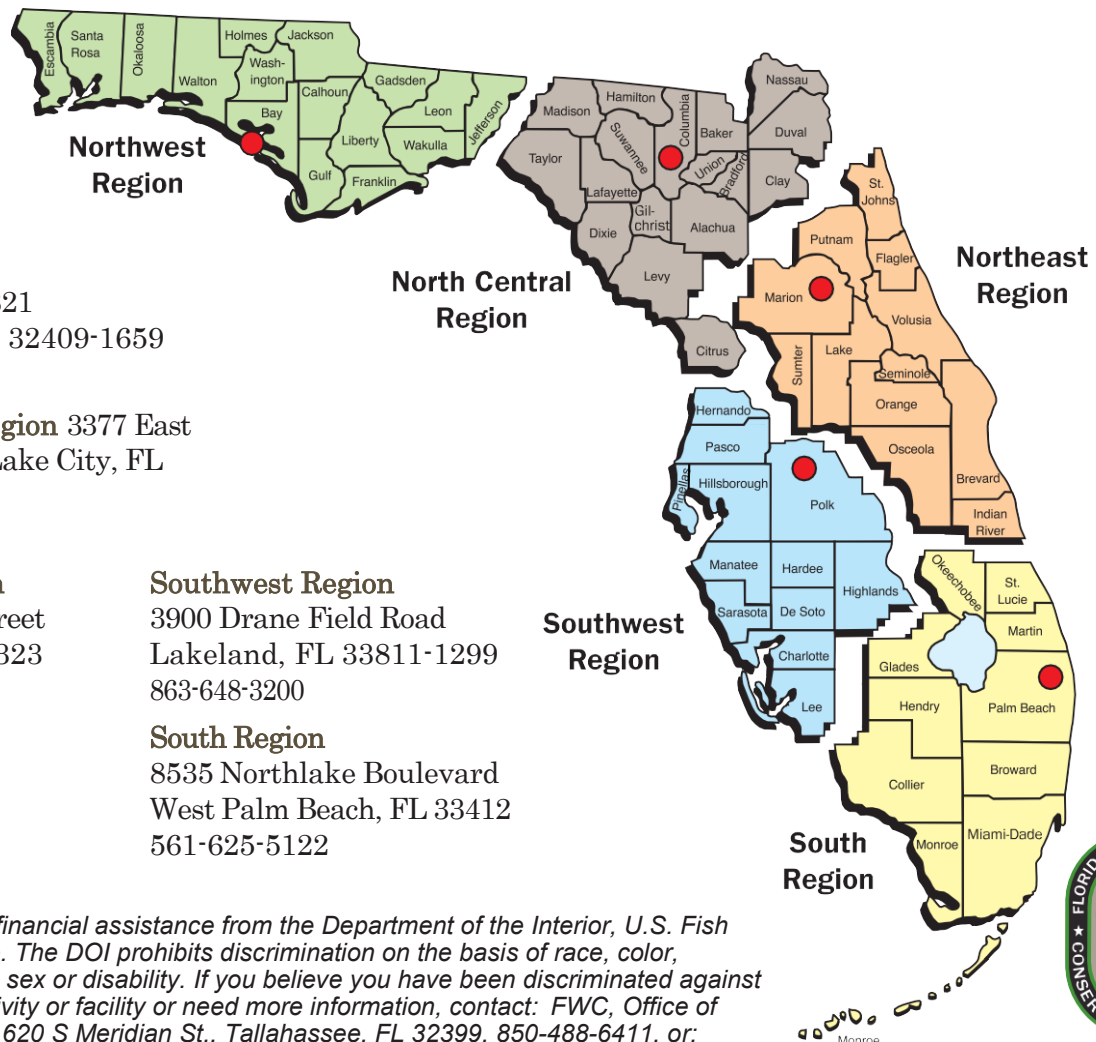
Trapping wild hogs is a useful tool to control feral populations on private and public lands. Authorization from the FWC is not required for individuals wishing to remove wild hogs from private lands with landowner permission. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services regulates movement of wild hogs in Florida and requires individuals trapping and holding them to register as a Feral Swine Dealer. Trapped wild hogs may not be released on public land and may only be moved to locations approved by FDACS.

**Please note:** All traps must be checked at least once every 24 hours. Captured non-target species are required to be released on site.



Courtesy: FWC

If you have further questions or need more help, call your regional Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission office:



### Northwest Region

3911 Highway 2321  
Panama City, FL 32409-1659  
850-265-3676

### North Central Region

3377 East  
U.S. Highway 90 Lake City, FL  
32055-8795  
386-758-0525

### Northeast Region

1239 S.W. 10th Street  
Ocala, FL 3441-0323  
352-732-1225

### Southwest Region

3900 Drane Field Road  
Lakeland, FL 33811-1299  
863-648-3200

### South Region

8535 Northlake Boulevard  
West Palm Beach, FL 33412  
561-625-5122

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