



The scoop on Geese. The Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), sometimes called Canadian goose are extremely adept at living in human-altered areas. There are various species of geese however we're going to discuss all geese in general.

Why are we having this discussion? A number of our members have come forward noting the geese are becoming a problem. Not only are their droppings on the lawns a disgusting nuisance, the droppings can wash into the lake, thus creating a potential health concern. If we we all don't take steps now to keep them away, things will only get worse.

Facts

1). Canada geese are grazers and prefer grass, especially fertilized lawn grass. They tend to forage in areas with open sight lines and access to water where they can see and escape predators. 2) Geese are herbivores, feeding almost exclusively on plants and they prefer open terrain with good visibility and space to fly. 3) Well-kept lawns provide excellent goose habitat for feeding, raising young, moulting and resting. 4) Once geese have nested successfully, encouraging them to leave an area can be difficult, and their numbers tend to increase in future years. 5). Geese do not poo in the water however on lawns thus increasing the risk of E.coli and or cyanobacteria blooms. 6) Geese moult after nesting so they are lake bound and can not fly for 4-6 weeks



What can we do?

Like most of us, if Canada geese find their favorite food spread out in easy reach, they will eat it. *You need to close the free buffet! So how do we close the buffet??*



1) Reduce the total amount of lawn. 2). Geese prefer to eat tender young grass shoots, so let your lawn grow to a height of 4-6" in spring and early summer (nesting season) and let to grow tall again in the fall so it becomes a deterrent in the spring when geese are searching for a nesting place. 3) Don't fertilize your lawn. 4). Use dense tall plantings along shorelines to make a barrier between the food and the water. Rose bushes make an excellent deterrent! 5) Add variety to landscaping with clumps of taller plantings where predators could hide. 6). Maintain or establish stands of trees between water and grass so geese can't fly through.

*Basically – Keep geese away by changing the habitat
Habitat modification creates long-lasting results*

Canada Geese are migratory birds that are protected under Canadian law by the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994, which prohibits killing or capturing the birds or damaging, destroying, removing, or disturbing their nests, except as provided for under the Migratory Birds Regulations. [Click here to read more!](#)

