



ARMADILLOS

TIPS FOR REDUCING HUMAN-ARMADILLO CONFLICTS:

- **Do not touch an armadillo with your bare hands.** Armadillos can be infected with the causative agent of leprosy. Avoid touching them and avoid contact with their fluids.
- **Do not trap armadillos.** They are difficult to trap and if removed will only create a vacuum effect for others to come in.
- **Eliminate their food source.** Reduce their food sources in your yard to make it less inviting. Trim bushes, shrubs, and tall grass. Armadillos look for these overgrown areas because they're often full of insects. Beneficial nematodes and reducing watering are great ways to kill the grubs that attract armadillos.
- **Prevent digging in your yard.** You will need in-ground fencing that extends at least 18 inches in the ground to prevent armadillos from digging.

BENEFITS OF ARMADILLOS

Armadillos can control pests, disperse seeds, and be effective sentinels of potential disease outbreaks or bioindicators of environmental contaminants.

When the females give birth, they can produce up to four genetically identical babies at once. Therefore, scientists researching reproduction and multiple births find these armadillos to be very important to their research.

NATURAL HISTORY

- Nine-banded armadillos are from the Dasypodidae family. Scientists classify armadillos as Order Xenartha, the same order as anteaters and sloths. They have poorly developed teeth and limited mobility.
- Just like a turtle, the shell is called a carapace and is made up of scutes or bony plates attached to a tough epidermal skin layer.
- Armadillos are largely insectivores but may consume fruit when available. The armadillo's diet consists mainly of invertebrates including insects, millipedes, centipedes, snails, leeches, and earthworms.
- Generally, the female produces only one litter per year. A single fertilized egg gives rise to four separate embryos. They breed between June and August.