



ALIEN SPECIES ALERT!



Have you seen this squirrel in your area?



GREY SQUIRREL with grey colouring

Eastern Grey Squirrels were introduced to Vancouver Island in 1966 from eastern North America. They are quickly spreading up the island from their point of introduction in Metchosin.

They cause damage to homes, gardens and farms by:

- Digging up lawns and eating garden bulbs
- Chewing on wire, removing shingles and shakes, and chewing through eaves to nest in attics, roofs and chimneys
- Damaging nut trees and depleting nut production (hazelnuts and walnuts)
- Removing bark from trees



GREY SQUIRREL with black colouring



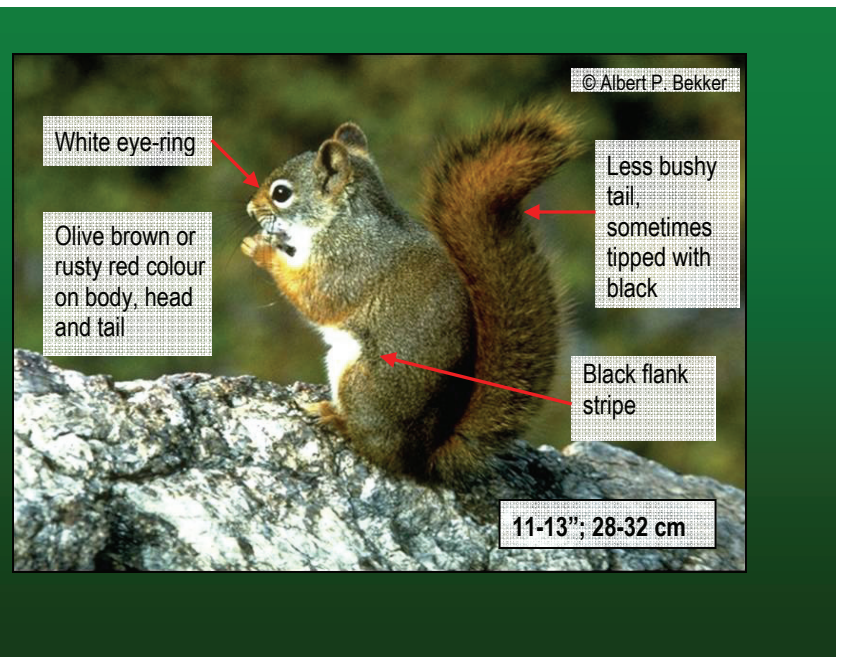
Grey squirrels are a threat to our native species because they can:

- Damage Garry Oak trees by stripping bark and eating acorns; eat the bulbs of Camas flowers
- Compete with and displace native red squirrels
- Transfer diseases to red squirrels
- Compete with native birds for tree cavities and bird feeders; eat bird eggs and nestlings

Protect our native Vancouver Island species by:

- Trapping grey squirrels
- Not relocating grey squirrels (it's illegal)
- Not feeding grey squirrels
- Controlling access to garbage, compost and bird feeders
- Tips for squirrel-proofing your home and property are available on the internet

Know the differences between the Eastern Grey Squirrel and our native Red Squirrel!



EASTERN GREY SQUIRREL (TWICE AS BIG)

NATIVE RED SQUIRREL



We would like your assistance in determining the northern extent and range of the Eastern Grey Squirrel on Vancouver Island. If you have seen a grey squirrel north of Duncan or west of Sooke, or want more information about how to help with management of this species, please call 1-250-751-3100