

THE VILLAGE

Gazette™

"It takes a Village..."

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGES AT WESTERN OAKS AND LEGEND OAKS I

Pruning Guidelines

FOR PREVENTION OF OAK WILT IN TEXAS

Oak wilt, caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, is the most destructive disease affecting live oaks and red oaks in Central Texas. Most of the tree mortality results from tree-to-tree spread of the pathogen through interconnected or grafted root systems, once an oak wilt center becomes established. New infection centers begin when beetles carry oak wilt fungal spores from infected red oaks to fresh, open wounds on healthy oaks. Wounds include any damage caused by wind, hail, vehicles, construction, squirrels, birds or pruning. Research has shown that both oak wilt fungal mats on infected red oaks and insects that carry oak wilt spores are most prevalent in the spring. *Below is a brief description of how you can reduce the risk of fungal spread when pruning.*

- Always paint fresh wounds on oaks, including pruning cuts and stumps, with wound dressing or latex paint immediately after pruning or live tree removal at all times of the year.
- Clean all pruning tools with 10% bleach solution or Lysol™ between sites and/or trees.
- If possible avoid pruning or wounding of oaks during the spring (currently defined as February 1 through June 30).

Reasons to prune in the spring include:

- To accommodate public safety concerns such as hazardous limbs, traffic visibility or emergency utility line clearance.
- To repair damaged limbs (from storms or other anomalies)
- To remove limbs rubbing on a building or rubbing on other

branches, and to raise low limbs over a street.

- On sites where construction schedules take precedence, pruning any live tissue should only be done to accommodate required clearance.
- Dead branch removal where live tissue is not exposed.
- Pruning for other reasons (general tree health, non-safety related clearance or thinning, etc.) should be conducted before February 1 or after June 30.

Debris from diseased red oaks should be immediately chipped, burned or buried. Regardless of the reasons or time of year, proper pruning techniques should be used. These techniques include making proper pruning cuts and avoiding injurious practices such as topping or excessive crown thinning. If you are uncertain about any of this information, you should consult with a Texas Oak Wilt Certified arborist, ISA Certified Arborist, or an oak wilt specialist from a city, county or state government agency such as the Texas Forest Service or Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

References (available at <http://www.TexasOakWilt.org>):

Appel, D.N., and R.F. Billings (eds.). 1995. Oak wilt perspectives: Proceedings of the Nation Oak Wilt Symposium, June 22-25, 1992. Austin, TX. Information Development, Houston, TX. 217 p. Billings, R.F., and D.N. Appel (eds.). 2009. Proceedings of the National Oak Wilt Symposium. June 4-7, 2007, Austin, TX. Texas Forest Service Publication 166. 267p. Prepared January 12th, 2011 in cooperation between Texas Forest Service, Texas AgriLife Extension Service & International Society of Arboriculture Texas Chapter.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Bailey.....	512-414-4990
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Gorzycki	512-841-8600
High School	
Austin	512-414-2505
Bowie.....	512-414-5247

UTILITIES

Water/Wastewater	
City of Austin.....	512-972-0101
City of Austin (billing)	512-494-9400
Emergency	512-972-1000
Texas State Gas	
Customer Service	1-800-700-2443
Gas related emergency	1-800-959-5325
Pedernales Electric Cooperative	
New service, billing	512-219-2602
Problems	512-219-2628
ATT/SBC Telephone	
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Billing	1-800-288-2020
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Time Warner Cable.....	512-485-5555

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Dead Animal Collection.....	512-494-9400
Abandoned/Disabled Vehicles	512-974-8119
Stop Sign Missing/Damaged	512-974-2000
Street Light Outage (report pole#).....	512-505-7617

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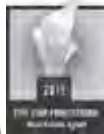
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SOUTHWEST AUSTIN REAL ESTATE UPDATE

October 2012

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SOUTHWEST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET UPDATE

Western Oaks Market Stats (as of Oct 9, 2012)

	2011	2012
Total Home Sales:	148	117
Median Sold Price:	\$252,500	\$270,848
Median Sold Price per Sq. Ft:	\$115.58	\$125.95
Median Days on Market for sales:	25	23
Active Listings		16
Median Asking Price:		\$282,718
Median Price Per Sq. Ft.:		\$128.03
Median Days on Market:		44

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– Blair & Cherry Williamson

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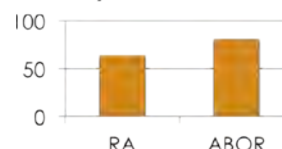


MY SOUTHWEST AUSTIN LISTINGS SELL!

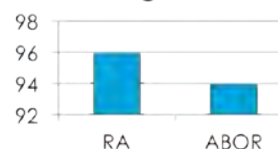
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Austin Newcomers Club



Austin Newcomers is dedicated to introducing new residents to Austin while extending a hand to make new acquaintances and join fun Interest Groups. Rosina Newton, the Horticulturist and Education Coordinator at The Natural Gardener, an award-winning Austin nursery, is the featured speaker. She will talk about Native and Xeric Landscaping, especially important in the present drought.

The monthly luncheon will be held on Wednesday, October 17 at Green Pastures Restaurant, 811 Live Oak St, Austin TX 78704. The luncheon is \$20 per person; reservations are required, and payment must be received by Thursday, October 11.

The club website is www.AustinNewcomers.com and the telephone number is (512) 314-5100.



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Tennis Tips

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional

Fernando Velasco

Owner, Manager and Director of Tennis

Grey Rock Tennis Club, Austin, TX

HOW TO HIT A TWO-HANDED BACKHAND

In last month's newsletter, I gave tips on how to hit a Forehand. In this issue, I will offer you instructions on how to execute a two-handed backhand for a right hander.

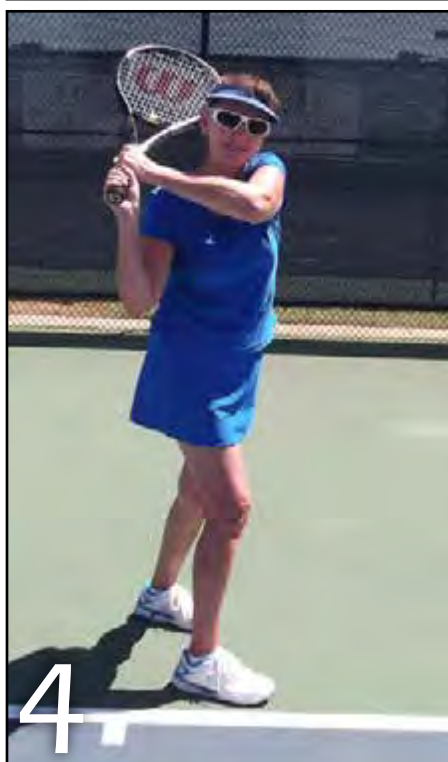
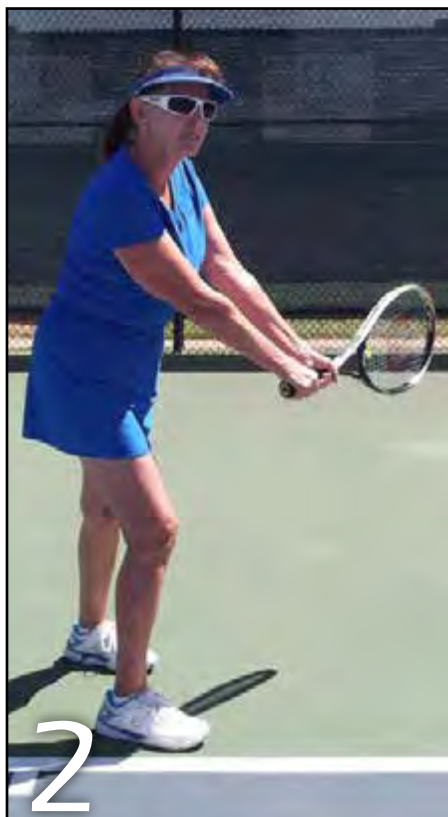
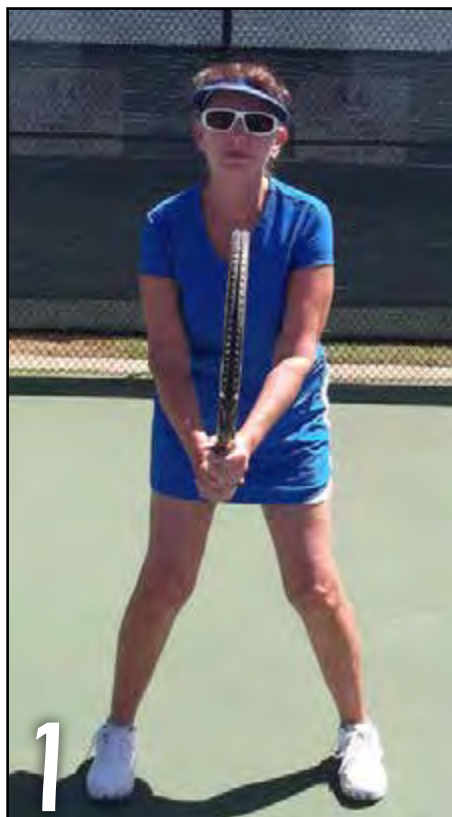
STEP 1 - Ready position: The body is facing the net and both of the hands are on the handle of the racket. The left hand should not overlap the right hand and it should be gripping the racket slightly tighter than the right hand. Feet are shoulder width apart and the body is in good balance.

STEP 2 - Back swing: Once the player makes the decision to hit on the left side, the body should start taking the racket back before the ball bounces. Notice the slight change of grip on the right hand toward the top of the handle (continental grip). Notice the turn of the upper body and the right foot leading the left foot. Eyes are still focused on the incoming ball.

STEP 3 - Point of Contact: The eyes now shift toward the point of contact which should be in front of the right foot. The right hand is still slightly relaxed, but the left hand is doing most of the work at the point of impact. The racket has made contact with the ball and weight of the player has shifted toward the point of contact. It is important to keep the right shoulder closed and not open the left hip too early. Flexing the right knee will allow more flexibility and power on the ball.

STEP 4 - Follow Through: Once the racket has made contact with the ball, let the arms extend out toward the target selected. The elbows now are bent and the head of the racket is wrapping around the left shoulder.

Look for next Issue: The One-Backhand Groundstroke



Breast Cancer: Importance of Early Detection

By: Concentra Urgent Care

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the United States, and is the second leading cause of cancer deaths. Screening is vital because early stages of the disease are easier to treat.

The American Cancer Society recommends women:

- Obtain yearly mammography screenings, beginning at age 40
- Obtain yearly clinical breast exams
- Check your breasts regularly for lumps
- Discuss their breast cancer risk with their physician

Breast cancer risk increases as we age. Other factors that increase a woman's risk for breast cancer include:

- Having started menstrual periods at a young age
- Having a first child after age 30
- Use of hormone replacement therapy
- Having a family history of breast cancer

Men are also at risk for rare cases of breast cancer. All persons familiar with the normal look and feel of their breasts should promptly report any unexpected changes to their physicians. The American Cancer Society recommends both women and men consult their doctor if they notice any of the

following:

- A new, hard lump or thickening in any part of the breast
- Change in breast size or shape

- Dimpling or puckering of the skin
- Swelling, redness, or warmth that does not go away

- Recurrent pain in a particular part of the breast
- Pulling in of the nipple
- Nipple discharge that starts suddenly in only one breast
- An itchy, sore, or scaly area on one nipple

For more information about breast cancer and early detection, contact your health care provider, your Concentra health specialist, visit the American Cancer Society Web Site at: www.cancer.org, or visit the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month Web site at: <http://nbcam.org/>

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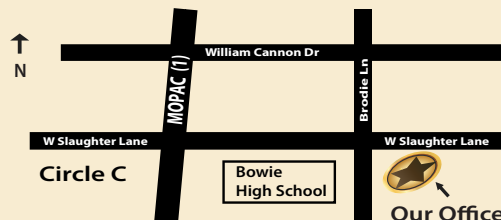
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Recipe of the Month



Grilled New York Strip

with

Sauteed Mushrooms & Beurre Blanc

by the Four Points Foodie

Was in the mood for a yummy sauce ... you know the kind you lick off your fingers? This Beurre Blanc really compliments the simplicity of a salt and peppered grilled steak along with some sauteed mushrooms. I paired it with a simple salad and this was our amazing dinner tonight.



Steak Ingredients:

Your choice steaks, room temp and seasoned with salt and pepper only

1 lb sliced baby portobello mushrooms

1 T olive oil

Preheat your grill. In a medium sautee pan, add olive oil and sautee mushrooms on medium heat until dark and caramelized. Remove from heat and hold.

Grill your steaks the way you like them, then remove from heat and let them rest, covered with foil, for 10 minutes.

Beurre Blanc Ingredients:

1 medium shallot, minced

8 oz white wine

3 T heavy cream

12 T cold butter, cubed

salt and pepper to taste

In a saute pan, reduce the shallots and wine until about 2 T remain. Add the heavy cream and cook until it bubbles, then remove from heat. Slowly whisk in the nobs of butter, a few at a time, until incorporated. As you whisk a few in, the sauce gets thicker and thicker. Once all the butter is whisked in, season to taste with salt and pepper.

To serve, top your steak with mushroom and then the Beurre Blanc. I added some minced chive for a tiny bit of taste and color.



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End of Summer Home Maintenance Tips

Submitted by Eric Hegwer

As the weather begins to cool in Central Texas, and the brutally hot days of August are behind us, now is the time to take care of all those little items that you've been putting off in favor of staying inside your air conditioned living room.

Each of these projects is inexpensive, easy, and you can easily accomplish several in a weekend.

LANDSCAPING

Pull up some weeds, lay down some mulch, and prune back the plants. Hire some neighbor kids to rake the leaves. The end of the summer is also a great time to fertilize for the fall/winter dormant season for native Texas plants.

CLEAN GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS

Clogged gutters can overflow, potentially causing damage to the wood fascia around your home. Cleaning your gutters is easy, but does involve climbing up a ladder and scooping out some gross stuff. If you aren't comfortable with heights or don't know how to use a ladder, hire a pro. Scoop out the dirt, leaves, and debris, and wash everything clean with water from a hose.

OUTDOOR PAINTING AND TOUCHUPS

Walk around your house and look for any areas that need touch ups, are peeling, or look rough. Carefully scrape or sand the area, prime, and paint with the matching color to complete the repair.

CAULKING AND SEALING

Check key areas around windows and doors for gaps. Cracks can cause leaks and higher energy bills and can be easily repaired with caulk or expanding foam. Also, check for loose trim boards, and re-attach them as necessary.

ASPHALT AND CONCRETE REPAIR

To prevent shifting and tilting of driveways and sidewalks, reseal asphalt every two years and fill cracks in concrete with epoxy.

Maintaining your home doesn't have to be difficult. Especially when you catch problems early and fix them. In doing so, you will increase your home's value and prevent costly repairs down the road. If you aren't able to do this work yourself, hire a professional or inquire with your neighborhood HOA to see if any able bodied neighbors can help.



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TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

Boxelder Bugs

Boxelder bugs are dark brownish-black insects with orange markings around the edges of the thorax and wings. These bugs are about ½ an inch long as an adult. Nymphs, or immatures, look similar to adults, but are smaller, do not have fully developed wings which allows you to see their bright red abdomen.

While boxelder bugs typically do not cause damage to the landscape or structure, they may become a nuisance in and around homes from fall until spring. In the fall, adults and large nymphs gather in large numbers to move to areas to overwinter. Boxelder bugs spend the winter in cracks and crevices in walls, around door and window casings, tree holes and in debris on the ground. Sometimes they will try to move indoors to overwinter. On warm days from fall until spring, adult boxelder bugs will emerge from their overwintering location to warm themselves in the sun.

Removing female boxelder trees from the area may solve problems with large, repeated infestations of boxelder bugs. Hiding places can also be reduced or eliminated by removing debris such as boards, leaves and rocks from the area as well as sealing cracks and crevices around the home with caulk or expanding foam. If chemical treatment is desired treat overwintering areas with chemicals containing active ingredients such as pyrethrin, cyfluthrin, bifenthrin, carbaryl or acephate.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Also check out www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com



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- Kids Stuff -

Section for Kids with news, puzzles, games and more!

HALLOWEEN

Boo! What are you going to be for Halloween? Sometimes, it can be fun to dress up as a group. Maybe your brothers, sisters, friends - or even parents - will want to join in the fun. Here are some costume ideas for groups of two or more.

- sun and moon
- winter, spring, summer, and fall
- salt and pepper shakers
- a toothbrush and a tube of toothpaste
- cop and robber
- doctor and patient
- veterinarian and animal (dog, cat, or bunny)
- fireman and fire dog (dalmatian)
- fisherman and fish
- squirrel and nut
- teacher and student
- pilgrim and Indian (or turkey!)
- prince and princess (or king and queen)
- cowboy and horse (or cowboy and cowgirl)
- dog and bone (Arf! Arf!)
- Santa and elf (or Mrs. Claus)
- macaroni and cheese
- Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cottontail (from Peter Rabbit)
- Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Scarecrow, the Lion, and Toto (from the Wizard of Oz)
- Sonny and Cher (ask your parents!)
- vampire and bat
- burger and fries
- peanut butter and jelly
- three blind mice
- three little bears
- three little pigs



And no matter what you dress up as, please be safe while you're haunting the neighborhood!

This information was provided by KidsHealth, one of the largest resources online for medically reviewed health information written for parents, kids, and teens. For more articles like this one, visit www.KidsHealth.org or www.TeensHealth.org. ©1995-2006. The Nemours Foundation



SHOW OFF YOUR SUPERHERO

Parents this is your chance to brag on your kiddos.
We want pictures of your kids doing everyday
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HALLOWEEN TIPS

PORCH LIGHTS - a porch light on means fair game for Trick-Or-Treating. If you are not distributing candy or are done for the evening, please turn your lights off. And Trick-Or-Treaters...if you see a porch light off, be respectful and move on to the next illuminated house.

HELLO? - Knock or ring the bell no more than twice. If the door isn't answered within a minute despite the porch light being on, assume you've gotten one of those folks who didn't read Tip 1.

FRIGHTENING LIMITS - If you are the person who wants to jump out of the coffin tucked in the corner of your front porch, please make sure that the age of the 'victim' is appropriate. While pee will wash off concrete, you might ruin the night for a dressed up 2 year-old princess.

WALKING - Stay on sidewalks or pathways. Don't take short cuts through lawns or flowerbeds.

Manners matter - Saying "Trick-or-Treat" before and "Thank You" afterward is a small price for collecting free candy on Halloween.

GAME OVER - Don't Trick-or-Treat after 9pm. Families with children or older people may well be in bed after that.

TRAFFICKING - Vehicles: drive extra slow and look for kids. Chaperones/Kids: Stay off roads as much as possible.

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT - Glow sticks, reflectors, flashlights - all are good to make your kids visible to anyone who fails at Tip 6.

FLAME OFF!! - Jack-o-lanterns/candles set a spooky mood, but open flames near dangling costume sleeves and flammable accessories is dangerous. Consider battery-powered tea lights.

THANKS... - If you're going to give out goodies to Trick-or-Treaters, buy individually wrapped treats. Save special homemade goodies and fresh fruit as presents for the folks you know rather than strangers who are coming to your door Trick-or-Treating.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T - Not everyone celebrates the holiday, or celebrates it in the same way you do. We live in a community with diverse beliefs and views. Please show respect as you yourself would want to be respected.

DON'T SCARE THE LITTLE ONES TOO BADLY! - If you've got a really creepy costume to answer the door, or you decorate your house from sidewalk to front porch in graveyard chic - remember that what can be delightfully frightening to older kids and adults can terrify toddlers and young kids. Before jumping out of bushes, screaming when you open doors or leaping out of fake coffins at Trick-or-Treaters, take a quick glance to make sure they're of an appropriate age-group to enjoy such a scare. Save the best frights for those who can really appreciate them. You'll have more fun, and the parents of the little kids will be grateful. Having to take home a hysterical Trick-or-Treater who has been scared witless on their first time out is no fun for anyone.

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Splitting Hares

Nature Watch

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Colloquially known as ‘bunnies’, rabbits and hares are small mammals that can be found in a variety of habitats, including meadows, woodlands, grasslands, deserts, and even wetlands. But did you know that there are true differences between rabbits and hares?

Rabbits are clearly distinguished from hares in that rabbits typically have young that are born blind and hairless (altricial) and hares have young that are born with hair and able to see (precocial). Since young hares are well camouflaged and mobile within minutes of being born, the mother does not protect them and is with them only long enough to nurse. Rabbits, other than cottontails, live underground in burrows, but cottontails, like hares, live in simple grass nests above the ground called ‘forms.’ Unlike rabbits, hares usually do not live in groups (although a group of hares is called a ‘drove’) and they are generally larger than rabbits, with longer ears and black markings on their fur. Hares are also called jackrabbits, as they are very quick and can run up to speeds of 45 miles per hour! They have jointed or kinetic skulls, which are unique among mammals. This joint permits relative motion between the anterior and posterior part of the skull’s braincase, helping to absorb the G-force created as the hare strikes its powerful hind legs with impact against the ground.

In our area of Texas you can find the Swamp Rabbit (*Sylvilagus aquaticus*), the Eastern Cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), and the Black-tailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*). Living in the eastern third of our state and one of the largest cottontails in its range, the Swamp Rabbit inhabits poorly drained river bottoms and marshes. Its upper parts are grayish-brown heavily lined

with black with a white underside and cinnamon-colored front legs and tops of hind feet. At home in the water, this rabbit’s dense fur helps to waterproof its skin, and unlike other rabbits it will cross streams and rivers on its own. Also unlike other rabbits, its young have fur at birth but their eyes and ears are closed.

Eastern Cottontails are the most common rabbit in the eastern three-fourths of Texas and are moderately large with rusty-brown fur, relatively short ears, and large hind feet. These cottontails commonly frequent brush-dotted pastures and are active largely in the twilight hours and at night, when they venture out to meadows or lawns to forage. They often live at the edges of town and feed in gardens and flower beds, and are common along country roads lined with dense vegetation. Eastern Cottontails are prolific breeders, and can have as many as four or five litters throughout the year.

The Black-tailed Jackrabbit, also known as the Desert Hare, reaches a length of about two feet and weighs from three to six pounds. Its distinctive long ears and powerful rear legs distinguish it as a hare. With dorsal fur that is dark buff peppered with black and an underside of creamy white, its black markings are found on the tips of its ears and the top of its short tail. In warmer climates like ours, this jackrabbit breeds year round and the average litter size is four, but it can range from two to seven depending on the food supply. Since it does not hibernate or migrate, it uses the same square half-mile to mile habitat of oak-juniper woodland as its territory.

Now that you know the subtle (and sometimes confusing) differences between these closely related mammals, you too can try your hand at splitting hares!



Swamp Rabbit



Eastern Cottontail



Black-tailed Jackrabbit

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