

Russian Boar Signs



Scat

- Russian boars will consume almost any plant or animal matter.
- Because of this, their scat can appear varied in shape and consistency.
- Can appear as a group of pellets or as a single stool.



Russian boar scat may be mistaken for deer scat. Russian boar pellets are typically ½ to 1 ¼ inches in diameter, compared to deer pellets which are ¼ to ½ inch in diameter.



Nests and Beds

Russian Boars build two types of nests: farrowing nests and loafing beds.

- Farrowing nests are used to raise young. They're typically a shallow dug depression filled with vegetation.
 - Typically found in areas with an overhead canopy of vegetation.
- Loafing beds can be dug depressions or vegetation stacked to several feet high.
 - Several boars will use the same loafing bed so sizes may vary from a few feet to a few yards in diameter.
 - Can be found in wooded areas, open fields, or croplands.



Loafing bed in standing cornfield.

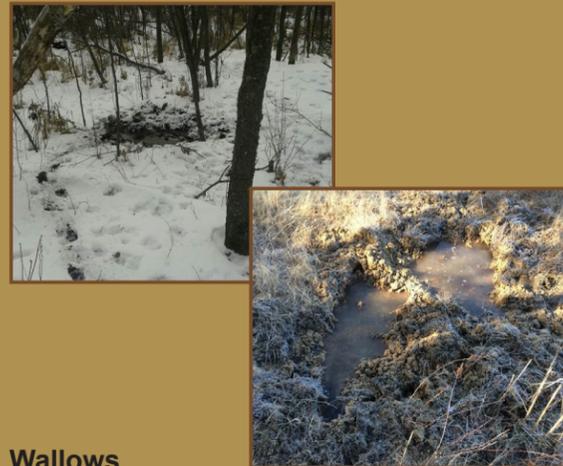


Loafing bed in cattail marsh.



Loafing bed in grasslands

Wallows and Rooting



Wallows

Russian boars will frequently form wallows.

- This behavior reduces parasites and helps them cool down in summer. It also may be a form of scent marking among hogs.
- This activity is more common in summer, but also occurs in winter.



Rooting

Russian boars frequently dig in soil in search of tubers (roots) and insects. This activity is referred to as "rooting" or "grubbing".

- Rooting activity can involve digging several inches to several feet into the soil.
- Intensive rooting is a sure indicator that Russian boars are present in an area.
- Light rooting activity may be mistaken for deer or turkey scratching.

Tracks

Russian boar tracks may be confused with white-tailed deer, elk, or moose tracks.

- In most instances even small elk and moose tracks would be much larger than Russian boar tracks. Elk tracks are typically greater than 4 inches long and 3 inches wide, where as Russian boar tracks are typically 2 to 3 ½ inches long and 2 to 3 inches wide.
- Distinguishing Russian boar tracks from deer tracks can be challenging, even for experienced trackers.
- Verifying multiple characteristics from several tracks of the same animal increases the likelihood of a correct identification.
- White-tailed deer tracks are generally similar in size to Russian boar tracks.



Russian Boar Tracks

- Tend to be square or rectangular
- Dew claws are usually distinguishable in all soil types.
 - May angle outward and typically register outside of the hooves.
- Pronounced gap between the tip of the hooves.



White-tailed Deer Tracks

- Tend to be triangular or arrow shaped.
- Dew claws may register but only in very wet soils or when running.
 - typically in line with the hooves.
- Slight gap between tip of hooves unless running.



Russian Boar Track

- note dew claws are angled and outside of hooves. Also a large gap between hooves.



Running Deer Track

- note dew claws inline with hooves

How to Help

Report all Russian boar sign you find regardless of whether you've reported sign from the same area previously.

The Michigan DNR and US Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services are attempting to trap and remove Russian boars from Michigan. Online reporting can be found here:

www.michigan.gov/feralswine

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Landowners can request assistance from US Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services by contacting:

- In Southern Michigan:
 - Nate Newman**
 - nathan.a.newman@aphis.usda.gov
 - Office: 517-336-1928, ext. 23
- In Northern MI:
 - Tony Aderman**
 - anthony.j.aderman@aphis.usda.gov
 - Office: 989-705-8467, ext. 224

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For more information about feral swine visit:

www.michigan.gov/feralswine

www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/state_office/michigan_info.shtml

www.feralhogs.tamu.edu/

www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/animals/wildboar.shtml

www.wildpiginfo.msstate.edu/