

# Invasive Species Alert

## Russian Boar

(*Sus scrofa Linnaeus*)

\*Established in Michigan\*

### Identification:

- Long, straight, narrow snout relative to domestic pigs.
- Dark-colored or camouflage coat.
- Light-tipped bristles.
- Dark point coloration on distal portions.

**Habitat:** Russian boar in Michigan are typically associated with mixed forest and agricultural landscapes. Both hard mast and agricultural crops are prevalent in these habitats, and Russian boar use them extensively for feeding and loafing. Russian boar also use wetland habitats extensively year-round, particularly if they are in proximity to abundant food.

**Native Range:** Europe and Asia.

**Diet:** Russian boar are opportunistic omnivores; they eat what they can when they can. Dietary items include crops, bird and reptile eggs, insects and insect larvae, fawns and young of domestic livestock, grasses and forbs, tree seeds and seedlings, nuts, roots, and tubers.

**Local Concern:** Russian boar can be aggressive toward humans and can transmit several serious diseases. Feeding habits put them in direct competition for resources with deer, bear, turkey, squirrel and waterfowl. Additionally, Russian boar use their long snouts and sharp tusks to root for food and wallow in the dirt. These two activities destroy crops and native vegetation, negatively affect water quality, and can cause erosion.



**Means of Introduction:** Intentional release, escape from captivity.

**Other Names:** Eurasian boar, feral swine, wild boar, wild hog, razorback.



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