

# LITTLE BROWN MYOTIS

*MYOTIS LUCIFUGUS*

A nocturnal friend

## Main benefits for agriculture

**Versatile:** The little brown myotis helps reduce crop damage by feeding on flies, moths, and beetles in vegetable crops, and on aphids and caterpillars in grain and oilseed crops (soybeans and corn).

The little brown myotis can catch up to 600 flying insects in just one hour. It is active for an average of five and a half hours per night and can consume **up to 3,300 insects in that time**. This means that, over the course of the species' seven and a half months of activity during the year, one individual can eat roughly 854,700 insects!

Some studies suggest that as much as **70% to 80% of the diet of insectivorous bats may consist of pests**.



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## Habitats

- Caves and mines
- Forests and woodlands
- Areas bordering fields and pathways
- Man-made structures

## Did you know?

**Bat boxes** can accommodate a large number of bats. Installing them is a simple way to increase the local population of these natural predators.

# What you can do to help the little brown myotis

## Preserving habitat

Create **riparian buffers** with a variety of trees and shrubs to provide shelter and food for bats.

Promote a heterogeneous landscape by **maintaining woodlands close to cultivated fields**.

In woodlands, leave **dead trees** undisturbed to provide potential shelter for bats.

Biodiverse two-metre-wide **windbreaks** are sufficient to **ensure connectivity** between the various habitats.

**Reduce the use of pesticides** and fertilizers by using integrated pest management methods and promoting soil health.

## Encouraging reproduction

Install **bat boxes**.

**Reduce disturbance** near hibernacula or maternity roosts.

## Living with bats

If you must evict a colony, avoid doing so during the rearing period. In the spring, prepare for the arrival of the bats by installing a **bat box** to prevent them from colonizing an attic, for example.

**If a colony returns** to one of your buildings in the summer, **install a tarp** beneath their roost to **collect their droppings**. This will make cleanup easier, plus you'll have plenty of excellent **natural fertilizer** when the bats leave in the fall.

### References :

Environment and Climate Change Canada (2018). "Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*), the Northern Myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and the Tri-colored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*): Recovery strategy 2018" [Species at Risk Act Recovery Strategy Series]. [www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/recovery-strategies/litt-le-brown-myotis-2018.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/recovery-strategies/litt-le-brown-myotis-2018.html)

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