

Black Bear

Black bears range throughout most of Manitoba but are only occasional visitors of the major agricultural area in the southwest.

Black bear adults are solitary and males and females only come together for a month, when they court and mate. Mating occurs in June or early July, but the young aren't born until January or early February. The bear fattens up all summer and fall and then hibernates in a protected area. It sleeps the winter away, but the sleep isn't deep and the bear's temperature falls only a few degrees below normal. The female gives birth to her cubs while hibernating. She produces a litter every other year, starting when she is three years old. Most females have one cub the first winter, and two when they breed next. The cubs are very small, weighing 220 grams at birth



Black bears usually avoid people, but drought and extreme hunger may make them bold and potentially dangerous. If you encounter a bear, shouting at the bear will usually cause it to run away.

Also, preventing access to potential food sources and garbage is your first line of defense.