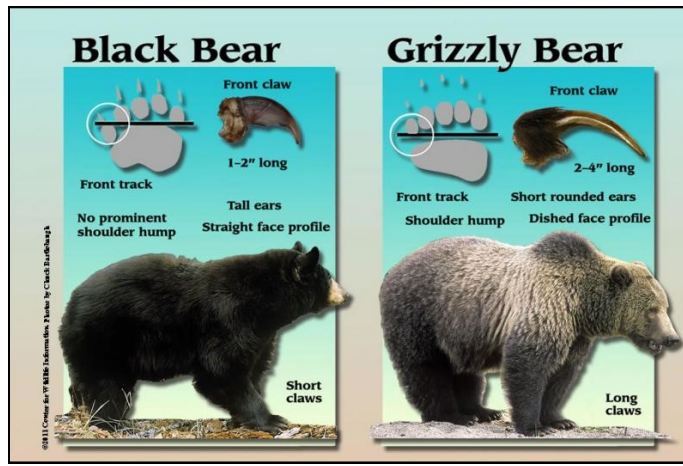


Montana is home to both black bears (*Ursus americanus*) and grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*).



<http://www.bearsmart.com/about-bears/know-the-difference/>

We share our forests, our fields, and potentially our backyards with bears. In the spring, the emerging bears will begin to forage for grass, roots, and winter-killed animals. During the summer and fall bears continue to forage, looking for any available food to help them prepare for their winter hibernation. They might also look to your property for food. Black bears and grizzlies can learn to associate humans with food. This familiarity can lead to confrontations, which can be unpleasant and dangerous for bears, humans, and property. Human-bear encounters are becoming increasingly common. More humans are living in bear habitat near woods and forests. Likewise, more bears are traveling into rangelands near rural subdivisions and towns. If you are considering starting an apiary or have already invested in a beehives, consider how you can protect your investment and your space from bears.

An important step to living with bears is to properly store and dispose of attractants. Bears are omnivorous, meaning they opportunistically eat both plants and animals. Attractants on your property can be very tempting and can quickly condition a bear to an easy food reward. Beehives are an attractive food source for bears, both due to the protein rich larvae and the sweet honey hidden within.

Electric fence is the most effective tool to deter bears from accessing hives. Below are multiple resources on how to install electric fence. Depending on the number of hives and hive locations you may consider either permanent or temporary electric fences.

<http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/livingWithWildlife/beBearAware/bearAwareTools.html#>

<https://defenders.org/got-grizzlies>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqIRMavnahE>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=20&v=lrzfOohv9HU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=20&v=lrzfOohv9HU)

Information provided by MT Fish Wildlife & Parks. Please contact FWP with any inquiries about tools for managing bears near apiaries.



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