

FERAL PIGEONS

COLOMBA LIVIA VAR.

A quick ID for Feral Pigeons.

If in doubt, contact a trained and professional Pest Technician.



DESCRIPTION

Adults

- Plumage can vary from pure white, through various colour combinations including blue-grey with double black wing bars, to almost pure black.
- There is no visible difference between the sexes, however males will often blow out their plumage and strut.

HABITAT

- Feral pigeons are found in towns and cities all over the world.
- They build nests in sheltered, protected sites (on buildings and other structures).
- Both sexes take part in the nest building.
- Nests are usually constructed from a wide variety of materials, such as twigs, grass, and feathers. These are often flimsy.

LIFE CYCLE

Breeding Period	March - July But can be year round
Incubation Period	17-19 days
Weaning Period	30 - 37 days
Sexually Mature	at 6 months
Life Span	4 years

FOOD STUFF

- Town centres: food scraps, spillage and feeding by members of the public.
- Farmland: In some areas, pigeons will fly to nearby arable farmland during the spring and autumn to feed on sowings and stubble.

POTENTIAL ISSUES

- **Disease Spread:** Pigeons can carry diseases E.Coli.
- **Droppings Contamination:** Their droppings can contaminate surfaces, water sources, and food, causing health risks.
- **Property Damage:** Pigeon droppings can damage buildings and structures, including roofs and statues.
- **Other Infestations:** Pigeons can carry bird mites which can be spread and infest other areas and animals.

CONTROL

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: Protection of Birds (Section 1-8) Protection of wild birds, their nests and eggs. All wild birds, their nests, and eggs are given protection. Several general licenses issued under this Act allow certain birds to be killed or taken by authorised persons at any time.

General licenses

- Licence to kill or take certain wild birds to prevent serious damage or disease.
- Licence to kill or take certain birds to preserve public health or public safety.

Licenses are revised yearly, so they must be checked before treatment to ensure they are still relevant.

Hygiene

- Ensure that spillage or other foods that may be available to the birds are efficiently cleared or covered up.

Proofing

- Spikes, nets, sprung wire.
- It is essential to select the right option for each situation

Scaring

- Tactical scaring using an electric ledge.
- Audio and Visual scaring has limited success.

Control

- Shooting for rogue individuals can be useful.
- Populations recover quickly in flocks.