

## MISINFORMTION ABOUT BATS

- **Bats spread a lot of diseases** - Contrary to peoples beliefs, bats are clean animals that rarely spread diseases unless if eaten or in very unusual circumstances bite.
- **Bats transmit Ebola** - Migratory bats may carry the disease but transmission to humans is only through ingestion of bat meat. There is no evidence of Ebola in bats in Malawi.
- **All bats have rabies** - Very few bats will have rabies and there is **zero risk** if bats are not handled. Bats have a low prevalence rate of contracting rabies in comparison with dogs. By avoiding handling bats the likelihood of contracting such diseases is minimal.
- **Bats are blind** - Bats are nocturnal but have a great sense of sight actually most bats can see better than humans in dim light!
- **Bats are flying mice** - Bats are not even remotely related to mice and are most closely related to hoofed animals! They have very different characteristics to rodents.
- **Bats are blood suckers** - Of all 1300+ species only 3 species consume blood and they all live in Latin America. They will generally only consume blood from other mammals by making a small incision and lapping at the wound.

Bats are a vital component of the ecosystem and they need to be conserved. Without them we risk the extinction of many fruits and crops. If bats are conserved we can enjoy many economic benefits from agriculture, pest and parasite reduction.

## DO YOU NEED HELP WITH BATS?

Call African Bat Conservation **TOLL- FREE** on  
**5152** for advice and assistance

# FERTILIZE YOUR CROPS FOR FREE WITH BAT GUANO



Bat guano is a free organic fertilizer that increases crop yields and improves soil structure.

### BENEFITS OF BAT GUANO:

- Soil conditioner
- Enriching the soil
- Improving drainage and texture
- A natural fungicide and controls nematodes in the soil
- Speeds up the decomposition process

## BAT GUANO NUTRIENTS

- Bat guano contains 10 percent nitrogen, 3 percent phosphorus, and 1 percent potassium (Bat Guano NPK=10:3:1).
- **Nitrogen promotes rapid, and green growth**, making bat guano a useful fertilizer.
- **Phosphorus promotes root growth** and supports flowering. While potassium helps plants grow strong stems.

## HOW TO USE BAT GUANO AS A FERTILIZER

**Dry Top Dressing:** There are two options to use guano as a top dressing:

1. Mulch your garden, sprinkle the guano on the mulch and keep moist. The fungi/bacteria will feed on that and break down the top dressing and add nutrients to your micro roots on the surface
2. Sprinkle guano powder/pellet form around the base of your plants and water it in thoroughly. You can also mix 2 to 3 teaspoons in a gallon of water and pour it over your plants.

## Liquid Guano Tea

- Mix a cup of guano with a gallon of non-chlorinated water and then it's ready for use when watering plants.
- **NOTE:** chlorine in water kills beneficial microbial life, so if you have city water that is chlorinated leave it in an open container for several hours or overnight to allow the chlorine to naturally dissipate

## APPLICATION

- Application should be done in the early morning or pre-dusk

## ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF BATS IN AGRICULTURE

- Insectivorous bats feed on and reduce insect pests that destroy crops. Therefore bats improve crop yields and reducing dependency on chemical pesticides, providing a free pest control service to farmers.
- Limited use of pesticides evidently reduces air and water pollution in the environment.

## GETTING TO KNOW THE BAT FAMILY

- Bats are mammals just like humans and rodents, however bats are unique because of their ability to fly
- They are warm blooded, have mammary glands and fur like all mammals
- Bats fall prey to snakes, owls, hawks and falcons
- Their morphology is similar to other mammals, they have arms, nostrils, eyes, ear, tail and wings

## LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

- There are over 1,300 species of bats in the world
- Malawi has more than 64 species and is a bat hotspot!
- Bats on average give birth to 1 or 2 offspring a year
- Bats use echolocation for hunting and navigation
- Bats are either insectivores (insect-eaters), frugivores (fruit-eaters), nectar-feeders, carnivores or sanguivores (blood-consumers)
- A single adult bat can consume 500 insects including malarial mosquitoes in one night!!



**African Bat Conservation** conducts applied research and community outreach to conserve bats in Malawi.

Visit [www.africanbatconservation.org](http://www.africanbatconservation.org) for more information about the bats of Malawi

Or contact us **toll free** on **5152**

