

# Peafowl and their long history in Arcadia



Peafowl found their way to this area when Arcadia's founder Elias J. "Lucky" Baldwin imported the colorful birds to Arcadia from India in the early 20th century. Peafowl continue to thrive in the City today.

Native to India, Burma, Java, Ceylon, Malaya and Congo, peafowl are relatives to pheasants. The difference is in the plumage. The term "peafowl" refers to the species with the males called peacocks; the females are called peahens and offspring under the age of one year are called peachicks.

Peafowl are very hardy birds and live long lives. Peafowl can grow to a maximum of 10 pounds and can live up to 15 years in captivity, however the life expectancy in the wild is difficult to determine. They are omnivorous, obtaining most of their food with their feet. They come in a variety of colors including blue, green, light brown and purple. The India Blue peafowl is the most common in this area and the one with which people are most familiar.

Peafowl are usually found in small groups consisting of one male and several females. The male attracts the attention of peahens by fanning its elegant upper tail coverts (the feathers that cover the bird's tail, not the actual tail) over its back. The males tail train will lengthen and get fuller over the first two to three years and will have reached consistent length and quality at five to six years old. The peacock will molt the tail in late summer signifying the end of the breeding season.

Peafowl reach breeding age at two years. Peahens usually lay clutches of three to 10 eggs in a season, starting in April. The incubation time for peachicks is 28 - 30 days.

## Did you know?

Peafowl are incapable of long flights, however they are able to fly short distances such as into trees where they like to roost.

## What do I do if...

### \* I see an injured peacock?

Stay within sight of the peafowl and immediately call the Pasadena Humane Society at (626) 792-7151. Make sure to tell them the bird's location and condition. They will pick-up and care for the injured animal.

### \* a peacock flies into my yard?

If the peacock is not injured or threatening your family, the Pasadena Humane Society and the City of Arcadia are unable to assist with the situation. Generally peafowl will not attack or harm adults, children or animals. Try using some of the tips in this brochure to discourage peafowl from entering your property in the future.

### \* peacocks continually return to my property?

The best thing to do to deter peacocks from returning to your property is to remove food sources. Peacocks love birdseed, dog and cat food, compost, as well as a variety of plants and flowers. By removing pet food once it is consumed, covering your compost bins and exchanging plants that peacocks find desirable with plants that they find distasteful, you should be able to reduce the presence of peacocks on your property. See the inside of this brochure for more helpful hints.

The peacock is a recognizable symbol of Arcadia. It is the official bird of the City and is depicted on the City seal, City logo and street signs.



## City of Arcadia

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Peafowl in  
Living with Arcadia's Wild Birds  
Arcadia

# Living with Peafowl

Peacocks are a wonderful part of living in Arcadia, however they can sometimes be disruptive and destructive. Below are some ways to deter peafowl from inhabiting your property:

1. When planning your garden, choose plants that peafowl find "unappetizing." Please refer to the provided list of plants and flowers that peafowl like and dislike.
2. Peafowl do not like water. The intermittent use of sprinklers or a hose will act as a negative reinforcement for the birds.
3. Peafowl like to roost in trees that provide safety and protection. Trim or thin overhanging trees to deter peafowl from roosting in branches.
4. Peafowl like to eat young tender seedlings. Cover or fence off young plants until they are well-established and less attractive to the birds.
5. Peafowl are attracted to compost heaps because of the seeds and bugs. Don't stop composting, however covering your compost bin will keep the peafowl out.



Peafowl are a beautiful addition to the landscape of Arcadia. They add beauty and grace to our suburban lifestyle, while being a truly unique and historical addition to the city we all love. By taking a little extra effort and following these helpful tips, it is possible to live harmoniously with the peafowl, while still keeping your property one of distinction and high quality.

## In the Garden.....

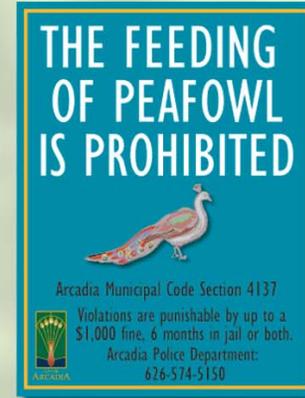
It is possible to maintain a beautiful garden while living with peafowl by replacing a few of the plants and flowers that peafowl find desirable with ones that they find distasteful. For example, substituting impatiens with azaleas still creates an attractive yard while deterring peafowl from inhabiting your property and destroying your landscaping.

### Peafowl dislike these plants

Agapanthus	Gaillardia	Mum
Azalea	Gardenia	Oleander
Baby's Breath	Geranium	Painted Daisy
Bee Balm	Giant Columbine	Periwinkle
Bird of Paradise	Gladiola	Peonies
Blazing Star	Cloriosa Daisy	Phlox
Liatris	Hen & Chicken	Pink Lady
Bouganvillea	Hibiscus	Plumbago
Butterfly Plant	Hardy Lavender	Poinsettia
Cactus	Hostas	Pyrantha
Camellia	Iris	Rhododendron
Cannas	Ivy	Rose
Clivia	Lantana	Shasta Daisy
Columbine	Lavender	Snap Dragon
Coneflower	Marigold	Sunburst Coreopsis
Ferns	Mint	Weigela
Fuchsia		

# Be a good neighbor

One of the biggest ways to keep peafowl off your property is to not feed them. They tend to return to areas where they can find food.



Peafowl love pet food, bird seed and bread. Feed your pets in the house or remove uneaten food soon after your pets have eaten.

Be a good neighbor and don't feed the peafowl! The birds can survive quite well on the wild and domestic plants, seed and insects. Remember, you can be fined for feeding wild animals.



### Peafowl love these plants

Amaryllis	Primrose
Begonia	Stock
Broccoli	Stock Cauliflower
Brussel Sprout	Sweet Alyssum
Cabbage	Tomato
California Poppy	Water Stock
Cauliflower	Young Spinach and
Chive	any young plants
Holly Berries	
Impatiens	
Kale	
Kohlrabi	
Lettuce	
Nasturtium	
Pansy	
Petunia	

Azaleas are unappetizing to peafowl and therefore make a preferable landscaping plant.

The Azalea is also Arcadia's "official flower."