

Food sources eaten by badgers

Badgers are omnivores and will eat a wide variety of food items, although in the UK earthworms are a key food source. In the spring badgers mainly eat invertebrate prey (**worms, slugs, snails, beetles and insect larvae**). Later in the year badgers also eat a variety of fruits (**blackberries, apples, yew berries, sloes and other fruits**) and cereal crops. Badgers will also eat **small mammals, birds, reptiles or amphibians** although these are typically only a small portion of their diet.

In farm yards and feed stores

Badgers will visit yards where they will eat a range of animal feeds if they are easily accessible. They have a particular preference for high energy, starchy and sugary feed types.

Feed types which are likely to attract badgers

- **Cereals (Wheat, Oats, Barley, Maize)***
- **Cattle cake or concentrates**
- **Bread waste**
- **Protein Pellets or nuts**
- **Molasses or mineral licks/buckets**
- **Maize or cereal silage (but not grass silage)**



**Cereals may also attract badgers if stored in pheasant feeders or other areas on the farm*

What about root vegetables?

Raw unprocessed root vegetables such as sugar beets or potatoes, are generally viewed as being unattractive to badgers (certainly compared to the list above), although it is possible that they could eat them in rare circumstances.

Where can I find out more information?

It is advised that measures are taken to reduce badger access to stored feed where possible. For information on biosecurity measures and a range of topics related to bovine TB visit www.tbhub.co.uk. This sheet was produced as part of a Knowledge Exchange project funded by NERC. For more info email a.robertson@exeter.ac.uk or visit www.tbknowledgeexchange.co.uk/