

Puma (*Puma concolor*)

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Why in news?

- A recent study revealed that Puma is using a **garden-to-hunt strategy**; meaning they **fertilise the soil in their hunting spots** with their kills to attract more prey.
- The animal carcasses of their prey are helping the animals **create nutrient-rich hotspots** that may continue to improve their future hunting success over time.
- These nutrients in the soil increase plant quality and attract ungulates — large mammals with hooves.
- Decomposing ungulate carcasses deposits elevated nitrogen, carbon and other valuable elements that improve soil and plants' chemistry and nutrient makeup.

About Puma (*Puma concolor*):

- Puma is a member of the family Felidae and is also called **mountain lion, cougar**, or catamount (archaic).
- It is a large brownish New World cat comparable in size to the jaguar.

- **Habitats:** Pumas live in a variety of habitats, including **desert scrub, chaparral, swamps, and forests** but they avoid agricultural areas, flatlands, and other habitats lacking cover (vegetative or topographic).
 - Puma has the widest distribution of any New World mammal, with a range extending from **southeastern Alaska to southern Argentina and Chile.**
 - **Conservation status**
 - **IUCN: Least Concern**
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Q1) What are Topographic maps?

Topographic maps are detailed, accurate graphic representations of features that appear on the Earth's surface. It usually shows a geographic graticule and a coordinate grid, so you can determine the relative and absolute positions of mapped features.

Source: [Secret lives of cougars: Pumas might be 'gardening' to attract prey to hunting hotspots](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/puma-puma-concolor/>

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