

The deer were here first; they have been displaced from their natural habitats by man, and are now living around our homes and towns. Deer are creatures of habit. They may visit the same food sources and select the same cover to hide in every day, unless humans or other predators interrupt these patterns. Deer are highly adaptive, they soon learn that a dog is on a chain or fenced, that scare crows are not so scary, that repellants are not really that bad, short fences are easy to jump, and holes and gaps in fences are easy to find.

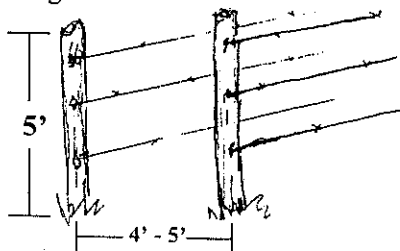
Repellants

There are many deer repellants on the market and more coming out all the time. However, many of these have proven to be unsatisfactory. Some are only effective for light to moderate deer problems. Many do not last long and are ignored during periods of high deer concentration. Other repellants are easily washed away by rain or watering and require constant reapplication. Some of the repugnant repellants not only keep deer out of the yard, they keep you out as well. Check with your local nurseryman and see what has proven effective in your area. Ivory soap shaved over and around smaller plants, such as tulips and many annuals has proven effective as long as you can see the soap.

Fencing

Fencing is the most effective deterrent for deer around gardens and yards. Deer can easily jump a 5 foot fence, many can clear a 6 foot fence, some a 7 footer, and a very few can even jump an 8 foot fence. Deer have also been known to "broad jump" streams up to 14 feet wide. The good news is that deer cannot high jump and broad jump at the same time. Deer resist jumping over something if they cannot see the landing site.

Knowing these behavioral traits, you can design your fence to outwit unwelcome deer.



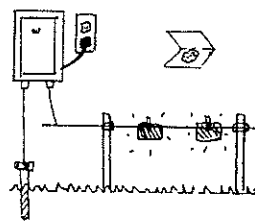
Fences can be costly since they need to be at least 7'-8' high. An 8' fence is the most expensive, but it is probably the most effective. New on the market are heavy plastic prefabricated deer fencing materials. They are heavier than the standard garden "bird netting" and are usually 7'-8' tall. Being rather semi-transparent, they blend in to a variety of backgrounds, and many times all you see are the upright posts. These are durable, long-lasting fences.

Electric Fences

Electric fences are not as costly as most traditional 7' or 8' fences. For the best results, place the wire 18" or more off the ground. To prevent some deer from learning to jump over this single strand, place a second wire 40" off the ground. It is recommended that you use a voltage of 4000 or higher.

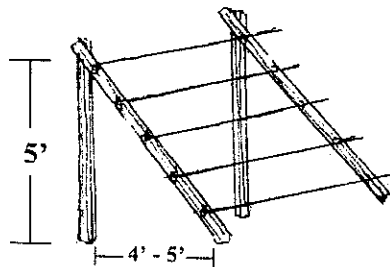
To introduce the deer to the electric fence it is recommended that you attract them to it with peanut butter.

One method is to hang aluminum foil strips smeared with peanut butter on the wire. When deer come to lick the peanut butter, they receive a jolt to the nose and mouth and learn their lesson.



Double and Angled Fences

Double row fences 5' high and 4'-5' apart will keep the deer from doing the simultaneous high jump and broad jump. A variation of this is a 5' high fence with wire that slants at a 30 degree angle for about 4'-5' along the ground.



Plant Enclosures

Individual plants may be protected with nylon or wire fencing installed immediately around the plant. Make a cylinder or square enclosure around the plant and anchor it well to the ground. This works well with fruit trees if the fence material is installed 3'-5' from the plant and attains a height of 5 feet. This allows the tree to grow to full maturity without major deer damage. After the tree grows large and tall enough, the fence can be removed.

Dog Assurance

A free roaming dog within a fenced yard is a strong deterrent. If you are not crazy about having a traditional fence, the new buried "no fence" cables with an electronic dog collar are effective. With the "no-fence" you do not have a fence to look at or to mow around; your dog stays in the yard, and hopefully the dog keeps the deer out. Because deer visit yards at night, it is important that the dog have access to the yard at all hours.

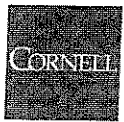


Plantings

It is possible to landscape with plants that deer do not normally feed upon. However, during periods of high deer densities, during severe winters, and food shortages in other seasons, deer may resort to eating less favored plant species. Consult your nurseryman for information on deer-resistant species that thrive in your vicinity.

Tactics

To keep deer out, you must be consistent in your efforts. Remember that when deer numbers increase and when food becomes scarce, deer may eat plants that they otherwise avoid, ignore repellants and overcome their fear of scare devices. No single technique may work for keeping deer out of your yard all of the time. It is recommended that you use a combination of methods for best results.



Resistance Of Woody And Herbaceous Plants To Deer Damage

This list is included only as a guideline and was developed from a variety of sources which may not all be equally reliable. Note that no plant is completely "deer-proof", particularly when deer densities are high.

Woody Ornamental Plants Rarely Damaged by Deer

- American holly
- Common boxwood
- Colorado blue spruce

Herbaceous Plants Rarely Damaged by Deer

Annuals & Biennials

- Ageratum
- Blanket flower
- Blue salvia
- Cleome
- Dahlia
- Dusty miller
- Edging lobelia
- Forget-me-not
- Four O'clock
- Heliotrope
- Marigold
- Morning glory
- Parsley
- Polka-dot plant
- Poppy
- Snapdragon
- Sweet alyssum
- Sweet basil
- Thorn apple
- Verbena
- Wax begonia
- Zonal geranium

Perennials

- American bittersweet
- Amsonia
- Anemones
- Angelica
- Astilbe
- Avens
- Baby's breath
- Balloon flower
- Barrenwort
- Basket of gold
- Bittersweet
- Beebalm
- Bergenia
- Bishop's weed
- Bleeding heart
- Boltonia
- Bugbane
- Bugleweed
- Buttercup
- Butterfly bush
- Candytuft
- Christmas fern
- Cinnamon fern
- Cinquefoil
- Clematis
- Columbine
- Coreopsis
- Crown imperial
- Daffodil
- Dead nettle
- Evening primrose
- False indigo
- Feverfew
- Forget-me-not
- Garlic chives
- Gas plant
- Globe thistle
- Goatsbeard
- Goldenrod
- Hay-scented fern
- Heath
- Heather
- Hellebore
- Hungarian speedwell
- Interrupted fern
- Jack-in-the-pulpit
- Jacob's ladder
- Japanese pachysandra
- Joe-pye weed
- Knapweed
- Kirengeshoma
- Labrador violet
- Lamb's ear
- Lavender
- Lily-of-the-valley
- Lupine
- Lungwort
- Mint
- Mullein
- New York fern
- Oregano
- Ornamental onion
- Ostrich fern
- Oriental poppy
- Painted daisy
- Partridgeberry
- Pennyroyal
- Perennial blue flax
- Plumbago
- Primrose
- Purple coneflower
- Queen-of-the-prairie
- Rhubarb
- Ribbon grass
- Rosemary
- Royal fern
- Sage
- Scilla
- Sensitive fern
- Shasta daisy
- Soapwort
- Spike gayfeather
- Statice
- Sundrops
- Sweet Cicely
- Sweet William
- Sweet Woodruff
- Tiger lily
- Toadflax
- Turtlehead
- Tussock bellflower
- Wisteria
- Wormwood
- Yarrow
- Yucca

Woody Ornamental Plants **Seldom** Severely Damaged by Deer

- American bittersweet
- Austrian pine
- Beautybush
- Chinese holly
- Chinese junipers
- Common lilac
- Common sassafras
- Corkscrew willow
- English hawthorn
- European beech
- European white birch
- Forsythia
- Honey locust
- Inkberry
- Japanese flowering cherry
- Japanese wisteria
- Kousa dogwood
- Mountain laurel
- Mugo pine
- Pitch pine
- Red osier dogwood
- Red pine
- Redvein enkianthus
- Scots pine
- White spruce

Woody Ornamental Plants **Occasionally** Severely Damaged by Deer

- Allegheny serviceberry
- Anthony water spirea
- Basswood
- Border forsythia
- Bradford callery pear
- Bridalwreath spirea
- Bush cinquefoil
- Carolina hemlock
- Carolina rhododendron
- Chestnut oak
- China girl/boy holly
- Climbing hydrangea
- Common horsechestnut
- Common pear
- Common witchhazel
- Cranberry cotoneaster
- Dawn redwood
- Deciduous azaleas
- Doublefile viburnum
- Douglas fir
- Downy serviceberry
- Eastern hemlock
- Eastern red cedar
- Eastern white pine
- European larch
- Firethorn
- Greenspire littleleaf linden
- Japanese cedar
- Japanese flowering quince
- Japanese holly
- Japanese tree lilac
- Judd viburnum
- Koreanspice viburnum
- Late lilac
- Leatherleaf viburnum
- Northern red oak
- Oldfashion weigelia
- Panicked dogwood
- Panicked hydrangea
- Paperbark maple
- Persian lilac
- Privet
- Red maple
- Rockspray cotoneaster
- Rosebay rhododendron
- Rose of Sharon
- Rugosa rose
- Saucer magnolia
- Silver maple
- Smokebush
- Smooth hydrangea
- Staghorn sumac
- Sugar maple
- Sweet cherry
- Sweet mock orange
- Trumpet creeper
- Virginia creeper
- White fir
- White oak
- Willows

Herbaceous Plants **Occasionally** Damaged by Deer

Annuals & Biennials

- Pansy
- Sunflower

Perennials

- Coneflower
- Cranesbill geranium
- English ivy
- Iris
- Meadow rue
- Peony
- Sedum
- Wood hyacinth

Woody Ornamental Plants **Frequently** Severely Damaged by Deer

- American arborvitae
- Atlantic white cedar
- Apples
- Atlantic white cedar
- Balsam fir
- Catawba rhododendron
- Cherries
- Clematis
- Cornelian dogwood
- English ivy
- English yew
- English/Japanese hybrid yew
- Japanese yew
- Pinxterbloom azalea
- European mountain ash
- Evergreen azaleas
- Frazer fir
- Hybrid tea rose
- Plums
- Rhododendrons
- Wintercreeper

Herbaceous Plants **Frequently** Damaged by Deer

Annuals & Biennials

- Hollyhocks
- Impatiens
- Mexican sunflower

Perennials

- Cardinal flower
- Crocus
- Daylily
- Hosta
- Rose
- Tulips

REFERENCES AND SUGGESTED READING:

- Clark, W.E. 1995. Capture and handling techniques for urban deer control Page 81. in J.B. McAninch, ed. Urban deer: a manageable resource? Proc. Symposium 55th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, 12-14 December 1993, St. Louis, Mo. North Cent. Sect., The Wildl. Soc.
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- Rongstad, O.J. and R.A. McCabe. 1984. Capture techniques. Pages 655-686 in L.K. Halls, ed. White-tailed deer ecology and management. A Wildlife Management Institute book, Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, Pa.

Warren, R.J. 2000. Fertility control in urban deer: questions and answers. Field Publication FP-1, American Archery Council, Gainesville, Florida. 8pp.

NEVER FEED THEM

Putting out food is “opening a Pandora’s box”. Feeding helps make animals “habituated”, or unafraid of man. Nearly all animals will become “regulars” and it will almost inevitably cause additional problems in your yard, and your neighbors.

ENLIST THE NEIGHBORS

Keeping wild animals wild is a community effort. If even one resident decides to feed deer, or other animals, the entire neighborhood will have a problem. If someone is feeding try to discourage them from doing so.

DEER REPELLENTS/ FENCING/ ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Available at Local Nurseries:

Liquid Fence (spray)
Bonide Repels-All Animal Repellant (spray)
Bonide Shot Gun Hot Pepper Wax Animal Repellant (spray)
Deer Scram (granular-organic)
Deer Stopper (spray and repellant ribbon)
Shake Away Deer Repellant (granular)
Scare Crow (motion activated sprinkler)
Expandable Tree Wrap (to help prevent damage from deer rubs)
Deer-X protective fencing for gardens and landscaping

REPELLENT AND FENCING SITES:

yardiac.com (repellents)
plantskydd.com (repellents)
gemplers.com (repellents)
deerbusters.com (repellents & fencing)
deerout.com (repellents & fencing)
nixalite.com (repellents & fencing)

FENCING SITES:

us-fence.com
bennersgardens.com
invisible-deer-fence.com
americanfenceassociation.com
gardenfence.com

PLANT INFORMATION:

Deer-resistant Landscape Nursery: deerresistantplants.com
White Flower Farm: whiteflowerfarm.com
Dutch Gardens (Bulbs): dutchgardens.com

GOVERNMENT WEBSITES:

MI Department of Natural Resources: michigan.gov/dnr

MI Emerging Diseases: Michigan.gov/emerging diseases
(Information on Bovine Tuberculosis, West Nile, Rabies, Lyme Disease)

Center for Disease Control: cdc.gov (Information on Lyme Disease)

CAR/DEER CRASH INFORMATION:

Southeast MI Council of Governments-Michigan Deer Crash Coalition:
semcog.org/MDCC

Deer Vehicle Crash Information Clearinghouse: deerocrash.com