



Deer Prevention Ideas

Ideas on preventing deer browsing damage



Deer are beautiful creatures, but their feeding can be a problem in the landscape. They feed on many shrubs and perennials, including daylilies and hostas.

Listed below are a number of remedies that may help strike a balance between the love of flowers and the appetite of deer. Hopefully

some of these ideas will help reduce deer browsing in your landscape.

Deer are afraid of any change in their environment for a short time.

Vary your use of control options. When using repellent products and/or tools designed to scare

wildlife, don't use any one method for too long, or the deer may catch on to your game.

Scents and Contact Repellents

Want to learn more about daylilies?

- Become a WRDS member and get to know people who love to grow daylilies.

westernreservedaylilywociety.org

- Join the American Hemerocallis Society (AHS)
www.daylilies.org

Contact repellents are applied directly to plants making them taste bad.

Spray or spread contact repellents on a dry day with temperatures above freezing. Deer begin browsing at 28 to 32 inches off the ground—that's the "Strike Zone".

Concentrate the spray at that height and limit the overspray to about a foot higher and lower.

A spray recipe: 2 beaten eggs (to prevent the sprayer from clogging, remove the white membrane before mixing the eggs), 1 cup of milk, 1 tsp. liquid cooking oil, 1tsp. liquid dishwashing soap, and 20 drops of essential oil of clove (cinnamon and eucalyptus are also supposed to work). Mix into a one gallon sprayer. You don't have to spray every single plant with the mixture.

The egg mixture is weather resistant but must be reapplied in about 30 days. This spray

will also smell bad to humans after a few days.

A number of other substances have been tried as deer repellents including blood meal, mothballs, dog hair, talcum powder, and hot peppers.

Scents and Area Repellents



Area repellents are placed in a problem spot and repelled by foul order.

A great area repellent is an organic fertilizer, Milorganite. It's also good for the plants and does work fairly well to repel deer. Spread Milorganite around your plants in various places.

Another idea is to set out,

mesh bags of human hair (about two handfuls). Bags should be hung no further than three feet apart and replaced monthly.

Bars of soap (Irish Spring works well) hung from branches of trees have been effective. Drill a hole in one end of the soap and hang from a twist tie or cord. One bar of soap

protects a radius of about three feet. Replace soap often to reset the scent.

Others have tied strips of fabric softener to nearby bushes. The scent of human things does not appeal to deer.

Other Suggestions



Fencing can be an effective means of reducing deer damage. It should be at least 8-10 feet high.



Some folks use motion activated sprinklers with some success. When the deer get near, the sprinklers start and run for a pre-determined time. They can be set to run from 1 to 60 minutes, and then shut off. If the deer come back they start again.



To prevent deer from eating tasty seed pods, tie the pods in panty hose.



Get a big dog that likes to chase wildlife! Deer fear dogs and dogs like to chase deer. You can use

a lower fence to keep the dog in your yard.

Some people have luck with ultrasonic noisemakers, or motion-sensitive light systems to drive deer away.

Try aluminum pie tins that flash in the sun.

Radios cranked up to all-night talk shows or loud music can work, but check with the neighbors first.

A single strand of monofilament fish line strung across a deer path creates an invisible force that can confuse the creatures enough to

detour them around your garden.

We've heard deer hate the smell of garlic, so you can mix a pack of garlic with water and spray it around the garden!

There are also many commercial products available at garden centers and the Internet to detour deer from nibbling. Some of those include:

- Liquid Fence
- Plantskydd
- Ropel
- Deer Scram
- Repels All
- Repellex
- Deer Away