CHEMICAL REPELLENTS

A variety of commercial and home-made repellents can be used to repel deer. Repellents work either by making plants unpalatable or by giving off an offensive odor.

Odor repellents — Made from ammonium soaps of fatty acids ("Hinder"); soap particles ("Repel"); citrus scent ("Deer Chaser," "Deer No No"). *Do not use sprays that contain predator urine such as fox, coyote, or bobcat.*

Taste repellents — Made from denatonium benzoate ("Tree Guard," "Ropel"); putrescent whole-egg solids ("Deer Away"); putrescent whole eggs, capsaicin, and garlic ("Deer Off"); castor oil and capsaicin ("N.I.M.B.Y.").

Make your own repellent — Blend 4 eggs, 2 oz. redpepper sauce, and 2 oz. chopped garlic with enough water to make 1 quart. Strain and apply with garden sprayer. Makes enough for 1 application on 16 bushes.

- Repellents are most effective if used when signs of deer first appear and not after significant damage has occurred.
- Never apply commercial repellents to food crops unless specifically labeled as approved.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

For more information about the products described in this brochure, contact the following companies for:

- **Perimeter fencing; mesh netting; driveway gates; chemical repellents; noise deterrents:**

  Benner's Gardens
  1100 Schell Lane, Suite 1
  Phoenixville, PA 19460
  (800) 244-3337 • www.bennersgardens.com

- **Spray repellents, motion activated sprinklers, electric fence kits:**

  Havahart
  (800) 800-1819 • www.havahart.com

- **Highway reflectors:**

  Strieter Corporation
  2100 18th Ave., Suite 1; Rock Island, IL 61201
  (309) 794-9800 • www.strieter-lite.com

MORE INFORMATION

- **Learn more** about our Coexisting with Wildlife Program at www.coexistingwithwildlife.org.
- **For information** on reprints, downloading a free copy, or how to order more of this or our other Coexisting with Coyotes, Geese, Beavers, and Wildlife brochures, visit www.bornfreeusa.org/catalog or call (916) 447-3085.
- **Please share** this information with your friends, family, neighbors, homeowners associations, city and county councils.
- **Join us** by becoming a member of Born Free USA and help Keep Wildlife in the Wild. Visit www.bornfreeusa.org/membership.

KEEP WILDLIFE IN THE WILD

Born Free USA is a national animal advocacy non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to end the suffering of wild animals in captivity, rescue individual animals in need, protect wildlife in their natural habitats, and encourage compassionate conservation.

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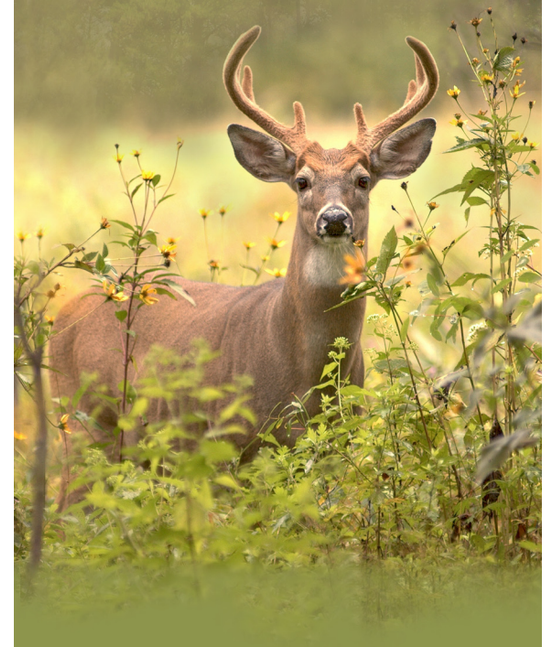
KEEP WILDLIFE IN THE WILD



Coexisting with DEER

COEXISTING WITH DEER

Rapid and continual changes in wildlife habitat have resulted in conflicts between people and deer. Damage to residential landscape is the most commonly voiced complaint about living with deer. Despite reports of growing suburban deer herds, most communities experience only minor problems. In one recent survey less than 5% of Americans reported any deer damage to their property.

Most deer damage can be successfully abated with simple techniques. A few situations require a more concerted effort. The solution to deer/people conflicts also differs by geographic region.

Deer respond to human-initiated changes in their habitat by adapting to live in our midst. It is our responsibility to tolerate their presence and treat any conflicts in a humane manner.

SAFE DRIVING

Increased development with more roads cutting through deer habitat, and people driving at faster speeds, have contributed to the frequency of collisions between cars and wildlife.

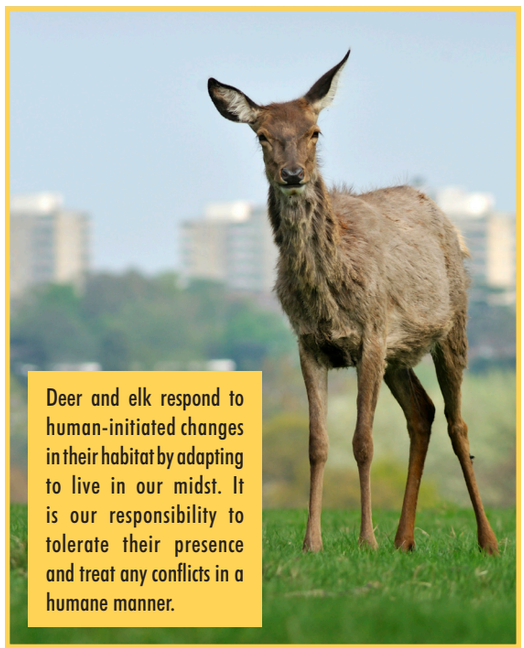
Tips to avoid hitting a deer —

- Always watch for wildlife, especially at dawn, dusk, and the first few hours of darkness.
- Be especially cautious in mid- to late-fall.
- Glance continually from the road to the roadside, looking for movement where roads are bordered by fields or natural habitat.
- Heed warning signs and reduce speed in places deer are most likely to cross the road.
- If you see one deer cross, expect others.
- At night, watch for reflection from headlights in the eyes of deer at the roadside.
- If a deer "freezes" in your headlights, try turning your lights off and then back on.

FENCING

Fencing landscape plants and crops is the most effective way to eliminate deer browsing.

Perimeter fencing — Designs include chain link, double-row wooden, solid wooden, mesh-woven wire, single- or multiple-strand wire electrical, and multiple-strand vertical or slanted wire non-electrical. Electrified fences can be baited to increase effectiveness. If not electrified, fencing should be combined with chemical repellents or other deterrents for the first year.



Deer and elk respond to human-initiated changes in their habitat by adapting to live in our midst. It is our responsibility to tolerate their presence and treat any conflicts in a humane manner.

- Sturdy wooden, fiberglass, or metal posts are essential.
- Fencing should be at least 8 feet (preferably 10 feet) high and set at least 1 foot below ground. Openings should be no more than 4 inches wide regardless of the fencing material.

Netting — Individual trees and bushes and groundcover can be successfully protected with stiff, plastic netting. The netting is simply unrolled over groundcover or draped over a bush or tree. Some mesh netting is virtually invisible — especially from a distance — and can be rolled up when not needed and reused for several years. Netting is most effective when used for short periods during critical times; it reduces rather than eliminates browsing.

LANDSCAPE CHANGES

Landscaping can be altered to reduce the level of deer browsing. The selection and placement of plants has a significant impact on the extent of damage. Some plants attract deer, while others actually repel them.

Grass and underbrush should be kept trimmed and fallen fruits removed promptly. Protect susceptible plants by surrounding them with repellent ones.

Repellent plants — Catnip, Chives, Garlic, Honeybush, Lavender, Onion, Sage, Spearmint, Thyme, and Yarrow.

Resistant trees, shrubs, and vines — Bottle brush, Daphne, Douglas fir, Spindle, Hackberry, Holly, Jasmine, Juniper, Maple, Oleander, Limber pine, Pinon pine, Pomegranate, Rhododendron, Wild lilac, Rockrose, Santolina, and Blue spruce.

Resistant flowers and groundcover — Black-eyed Susan, Chrysanthemum, Daffodil, Foxglove, Hyacinth, Iceland poppy, Iris, Lavender, Lily of the Nile, Oriental poppy, Snowflake, and Zinnia.

- Native plants are probably more tolerant of browsing.
- Because deer feeding preferences vary widely by region of the country, check with a local nursery or university extension service when making landscaping decisions.

SCARE DEVICES

A variety of scare techniques are used to chase deer away from areas and their effectiveness can be increased if used in conjunction with other approaches such as repellents and fencing.

Visual deterrents — Strobe lights that flash or rotate may startle deer. Lighting systems can be activated by timers or a motion detection device. Mylar tape, which is shiny and reflective, can be strung between trees or set as streamers on poles.

Noise deterrents — Playing a radio continuously may frighten away deer. Commercial ultrasonic devices are available that emit highly amplified sound waves that are nearly inaudible to humans but intolerable to deer.

Water deterrents — Sprinklers set to go off by motion detectors or by timers may work, especially if the schedule is changed often so it can't be learned by the deer.