

- Chemical repellents deter feeding but not other activities such as loafing or swimming.
- Must be reapplied after rain; 4 to 6 applications are usually sufficient for 1 season.



PHOTO: FRED KUIPERS

REPRODUCTION CONTROL

Techniques being used to limit the reproduction of Canada geese include removing nesting materials; oiling or “addling”; the feeding of hatch control product; and replacing eggs with dummy eggs.

Oiling eggs — This involves applying corn oil to the outside of the egg which stops the development of the embryo.

Hatch control — Ovocontrol G is a commercial product administered through treated feed and prevents hatching by interfering with the development of the egg membrane that separates egg white and yolk.

- *These methods require permits from wildlife agencies and should be used only by experts or trained volunteers.*

PRODUCT INFORMATION

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

- **Organization specializing in integrated humane solutions to conflicts with geese:**

Geese Peace
6405 Lakeview Dr.; Falls Church, VA 22041
(703) 354-1713 • info@geesepeace.org
www.geesepeace.org

- **Lines/wires; barrier fencing:**

Bird Barrier America
20925 Chico Street; Carson, CA 90746
(800) 503-5444 • www.birdbarrier.com

- **Barrier fencing; chemical repellents; scare balloons/kites:**

Nixalite of America
1025 16th Avenue; East Moline, IL 61244
(888) 624-1189 • www.nixalite.com

- **Hatch control:**

Innolytics LLC
P.O. Box 675935
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067
(858) 759-8012 • www.ovocontrol.com



PHOTO: LARS SUNDBLSTROM

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, Beavers, Deer 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
GEESE

COEXISTING WITH GEESE



Conflicts between geese and humans have increased as the populations of both have grown. The Canada Goose (pictured on cover) is the species most often blamed for causing problems in suburban areas. Resi-

dential and lakeshore development with its lawns, parks, and golf courses offers ideal habitat for geese — short grass, open water, and few natural predators.

Although individuals may differ on what population size is desirable, most residents strongly support humane, non-lethal methods of dealing with conflicts that may arise. There is no evidence that any disease has been transmitted from geese to humans.

This brochure describes non-lethal control of goose. These techniques are most effective when used in combination and when initiated in winter and early spring before a nesting site is chosen. In addition, all artificial feeding of geese must be stopped with exception of feeding associated with the administration of a hatch control product. All races of Canada geese are protected by federal and state law and cannot be injured, captured, or killed without a permit.

FENCING

Erecting barriers to restrict access to water and grazing areas can be a successful method of minimizing conflicts with Canada geese. Low

fencing may be used to deter feeding and loafing by the birds, and low overhead lines or wires can eliminate swimming.

Fence barriers — Fences can be erected to prevent geese from walking from a water source to grazing areas. They can be constructed of a variety of materials: woven wire, chicken wire, corn cribbing, chain link, netting, mylar tape, monofilament line, stainless-steel wire, and wooden pickets. Openings should be no larger than 3 inches, and the height at least 30 inches.

Electric fences — Geese and other animals coming in contact with an electrified fence will receive a mild shock. Electric fences may require a local permit and should have warning signs attached at short intervals.

Overhead lines or wires — A network of parallel lines or wires can be placed 1 to 2 feet above the water surface to restrict bird landing and takeoff. Polypropylene ropes strung between trees can help deter landing. Wire systems can also be installed over land to prevent landing.

SCARE DEVICES

Scare devices are usually inexpensive and can be implemented easily and quickly. Although birds can become habituated, hazing techniques can be even more effective if used in conjunction with other approaches such as habitat modification.

Visual deterrents — Strobe lights that flash or rotate startle geese. Mylar tape, which is shiny and reflective, can be set as streamers on poles.

Noise deterrents — Timed sirens, airhorns, and electronic whistles can be mounted on vehicles or handheld.

Trained dogs — Specially trained border collies have proven successful in herding geese from the grassy areas of golf courses onto a pond or lake. Frustrated after repeated attempts to leave the lake to feed, the birds eventually fly off.

Remote-controlled boats — Remote-controlled boats are often used in conjunction with trained border collies to chase geese out of the water and further encourage them to leave the area.

LANDSCAPE CHANGES

Altering habitat is considered the most effective, long-term approach to removing geese from an area. The birds prefer a large, unobstructed lawn area in close proximity to open water. The objective of habitat modification is to deny geese access to one or both. Although altering habitat may be expensive, it is probably the most cost-effective approach in the long run.

Grassy areas — Young grass shoots, particularly finer-bladed species such as Kentucky bluegrass, are preferred fare for geese. Less palatable plants such as native grasses, groundcover and wildflowers, and low shrubs should be substituted.

Shorelines — Since geese prefer to rest or feed on grass near water, shorelines should be altered to reduce the birds' view and impede their access from the water to feeding areas. Straight, uninterrupted shorelines can be modified with shrubs or boulders every 10 to 20 yards.

Goose access to shore from the water may be restricted by constructing decks, a boardwalk, or a barrier of boulders, each at least 2 feet in diameter. The installation of aquatic plants along

the shore can also create a physical and visual barrier to geese.

Ponds and lakes — Islands and peninsulas, prime nesting sites for geese, should be eliminated if possible. The water level can be increased at certain times to flood favored nesting sites. In other instances, decreasing the water level may eliminate islands by connecting them to the shore.

- Destroying goose eggs by flooding is illegal.

CHEMICAL REPELLENTS

The limitations of mechanical scare devices and other deterrents have led to efforts to develop safe and effective chemical repellents to deter foraging by geese.

Methyl anthranilate, available commercially as "Rejex-It" and "Turf Shield," is a non-toxic, biodegradable food ingredient that makes grass unpalatable to Canada geese. The repellent may be applied anytime, is available to homeowners, and does not require a permit for its use. Unlike visual and noise deterrents, chemical repellents can be applied to the problem area only and are not obtrusive to neighbors and the public.



PHOTO: JOEL TERRELL