

Dealing with Wildlife in Our Gardens

Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County Library Presentation 2018

4 Steps for Managing Wildlife

1. Assess Damage
2. Identify Species
3. Consider Cost
4. Employ Management Strategies
 - a. Habitat Modification
 - b. Fencing
 - c. Trapping/Removal
 - d. Repellents

Taste-based (contact repellents) – Apply directly to plants; repel through taste so must be consumed.

Odor-based (area repellents) - Apply over a specific area, including surrounding soil; repel through smell.

- Use before or at first sign of damage!
- Apply to tender young shoots, on windless days, with temperatures above 40 degrees,
- Reapply after rain or new growth on plant
- Change repellent with each application
- Use products that are safe around children & pets
- Read labels prior to applying; follow the manufacturer's instructions

Chipmunk Strategies: Habitat Modification

- Remove brushy areas, woodpiles, rock piles, low growing shrubs, & ground cover near home
- Eliminate or fence off attractive food sources in your yard (raspberries, vegetables)
- Place bird feeders 20-30' from house, use baffle on poles, or replace feeder with bird bath
- Clear yard of fruits, seeds, nuts fallen from trees
- Grow garlic and marigolds in your garden
- Place chicken wire over beds when planting bulbs; avoid fertilizing bulbs with bone meal or fish emulsion

Rabbit Strategies: Habitat Modification

- Remove woodpiles and brushy areas from landscape
- Trim low evergreen branches
- Enclose areas under decks/sheds
- Landscape with plants rabbits tend to avoid (see list)
- Fencing: 1 inch galvanized steel mesh or hardware cloth two feet high, buried 3 inches into the ground.
- Use cylindrical fence to protect individual trees

Rabbit Resistant Plants

There are few truly rabbit proof plants, but when food is plentiful, rabbits will avoid the following plants:

- **Annuals:** Ageratum, Campanula, Impatiens, Forget Me Nots, Scabiosa and Cineraria
- **Perennials:** Achillea (Yarrow), Amaryllis, Aquilegia (Coral Bells), Artemisia, Aster, Tuberous Begonia, Campanula, Cyclamen, Dahlia, Dicentra (Bleeding Heart), Digitalis (Foxglove), Echinacea (Coneflower), Ferns, Gaillardia, Hemerocallis (Daylily) Iris, Monarda (Bee Balm) and Verbena
- **Groundcover:** Bougainvillea, Hedera (English Ivy) Lantana, Pachysandra, Solanum (Potato Vine) and Vinca
- **Shrubs & Herbs:** Buddleia (Butterfly Bush), Boxwood, Lilac, Viburnum, Camellias, Holly, Rhododendron, Juniper, Lantana, Lavender, Rosemary, Salvia, Mexican Sage,
- **Trees:** Maples, Cedar, Redbud, Gingko, Magnolia, Spruce, Pines and Oak.

Deer Strategies: Habitat Modification

- Landscape with plants deer don't like to eat
 - Hairy-leaf plants
 - plants with thorny, prickly leaves or stems
 - plant with strong scents and pungent tastes (including most herbs)
 - plants that are poisonous or produce thick sap
- Divide landscape into zones
 - Plant deer-prone closest to house - easiest for you to observe and manage
 - Along edges of property, plant highly deer resistant plants
 - Grow native plants! (deer don't prefer them)
- Fencing
 - Most effective is 8' high fencing surrounding entire area (mesh, chain link, wire, aluminum)
 - For black mesh, hang strips of white cloth 4' high, every 12' so deer will see it
 - Solid durable fence – 5' high usually enough
 - Durable double row fencing four feet apart
 - Slanted fence 4ft high at a 45 degree angle
 - Individual cylinder fencing around individual trees or plants
 - Place netting over hostas

Skunk Strategies: Habitat Modification

- Control grubs, if present in lawn
- Remove brush piles, wood piles, similar sources of shelter
- Enclose areas under decks and porches
- Place garbage and compost in secure bins
- Feed & water pets indoors or provide food for only one feeding at time
- Call a professional to remove a skunk for your property

Recipe to "deskunk" your dog if sprayed:

Combine one-quart hydrogen peroxide or white vinegar, 1/4 cup baking soda and 1 tsp liquid hand soap. Apply and allow to soak for five minutes. Rinse and repeat if necessary.

Chipmunk Repellents:

Active Ingredient	Mode of action	Usage	Example Trade Names
Capsaicin	Taste	edibles	
Bitrex	Taste, odor	non-edibles	
Thiram	Taste, odor	non-edibles	
Soaps/Fatty acids of Ammonia	Odor	edibles	

Rabbit Repellents:

Active Ingredient	Mode of action	Usage	Example Trade Names
Capsaicin	Taste	edibles	Deer off, Get Away, Scoot, Shotgun, Miller's Hot Sauce
Soaps/Fatty Acids of Ammonia	Odor	edibles	Hinder
Thiram	Taste	non-edibles	Shotgun Deer and Rabbit

Deer Repellents:

Active Ingredient	Mode of Action	Use on Edibles	Example Trade Names
Salts/fatty acids of ammonia	Odor	Yes	-Hinder -Deerbusters Deer and Rabbit Repellent
Garlic oil	Odor	Yes	
Capsaicin Castor Oil	Taste	Yes	-Miller's Hot Sauce -Scoot Deer
Predator Urines	Odor	Not Directly	-Coyote, wolf urine, others
Fish and/or beef by-products	Odor/taste	Not within 8 weeks of consumption	-Bobbex -Deerbusters Plant Growth Stimulant
Putrescent egg-based products	Odor	No	-Deer Away BGR -Rejex -It Deer Chaser
Thiram fungicide-based products	Taste/odor	No	-Bonide Chew-Nott -Deerbusters Deer Repellent -Shotgun Deer & Rabbit Repellent
Blood-based products	Taste/odor	No	-Plantskydd -Repellex
Denatonium benzoate or bitrex	Taste	No	-Tree Guard, Ropel, Repel
Egg, garlic, fish oil, hot pepper, bitrex or some combination	Taste/odor	No No No Yes	-Deerbusters Deer I, Deer Stopper II -Deer Off, -Bobbex, Liquid Fence -MGD Deer Repellent -Not Tonight Deer, Deer Blocker

http://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/docs/publications/FS810-A_UsingCommDeerReps.pdf

Note: Reference to commercial products or trade names is made to assist the home gardener in finding repellent ingredients with the understanding that no discrimination is intended of those not mentioned and no endorsement of any product is intended by Ohio State Extension, Cuyahoga County Extension or Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County.

General/Residential Goose Harassment Timeline

Month	Activity of Geese	Response from Landowner	Suggested Techniques
January	Migratory geese are moving through the area. Some pairs of breeding age geese may break away from the flocks in early preparation of the nesting season.	Employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting (if allowed) Pyrotechnics Grid Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices Apply Turf Repellent
February	Geese begin to pair up and separate themselves from the flock. Non-breeding geese group together. Migratory flocks leave the area.	Begin EXTENSIVE harassment techniques to get rid of both migrating geese and paired geese. Fence off nesting areas where geese caused conflicts in previous year (i.e. Doorways and walkways). Fill out a complaint form at www.ohiodnr.com/gooseconflict	Pyrotechnics Grid Dogs Fencing Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices
March	Geese are paired and begin to set up nesting territories. Non-breeding geese may also be present.	Continue to use EXTENSIVE harassment techniques unless eggs are found in a nest. If at least one egg is found in a nest, harassment is not effective since geese won't abandon an active nest. Contact Division of Wildlife in early March if your tactics aren't working for technical advice.	Pyrotechnics Grid Dogs Fencing Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices
April	Geese lay eggs in early April and begin incubating the eggs in late April. Non-breeding geese are still in flocks.	Keep records of where each nest is located. Contact Division of Wildlife to inquire about a nest destruction permit. Harass non-breeding geese off of your property.	Fencing Nest Destruction Permit Apply Turf Repellent
May	Most goose eggs begin to hatch. Flocks of non-breeding geese may still be in area.	Harassing geese with young that cannot fly is not effective. Family groups may be "herded" off of your property. Install a barrier to prevent geese from walking back onto your property.	Fencing Habitat Modification
June	Geese begin molting their feathers and are unable to fly.	Continue to herd the adult and young geese off of your property. Contact Division of Wildlife in early June to inquire about a roundup permit	Fencing Habitat Modification Roundup Permit
July	Adult and young geese are able to fly around mid-July. Resident geese continue to form flocks.	Continue to harass geese off of your property. If you have young geese, they will soon be able to fly and when they do begin EXTENSIVE harassment	Fencing Mechanical Scare Devices Habitat Modification Pyrotechnics Apply Turf Repellent
August	Resident geese are in flocks.	Report results of goose damage permits at: www.dnr.state.oh.us/wildlife/Goose/login.aspx by Sep. 1. All goose damage permits expire August 31. Continue to harass geese off of your property.	Fencing Mechanical Scare Devices Habitat Modification Pyrotechnics Dogs
September	Resident geese are in flocks.	If feasible, allow goose hunting on your property during the September goose season (Sep. 1-15) Continue to employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting (if allowed) Pyrotechnics Grid Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices
October	Resident geese are in flocks. Migratory geese are moving through the area.	Goose hunting season usually starts in mid- October. Encourage hunting on your property, if feasible. Continue to employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting (if allowed) Pyrotechnics Grid Repair Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices Apply Turf Repellent
November	Resident geese are in flocks. Migratory geese are moving through the area.	Continue to employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting (if allowed) Pyrotechnics Grid Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices
December	Resident geese are in flocks. Migratory geese are moving through the area.	Continue to employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting (if allowed) Pyrotechnics Grid Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices



Chemical Lawn
Treatments -

Rejexit, Goose Chase, Flight Control *