

Deer Deterrents

Technical Guidance

Living in Medina, we were all drawn to wooded lots, clean air, friendly community, beautiful parkland, and natural wildlife. One of the most recent challenges for our residents, is to live in harmony with deer. Over time, deer have become more domesticated and fearless of humans.

White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) are among our most valued wildlife in the state of Ohio. Deer are appreciated by many as a valued renewable resource, providing special enjoyment for recreational viewing and hunting. However, to some Ohioans, deer may also be viewed as destructive when they cause damage to the landscape or create hazards on our roadways. These differing views present challenges for finding solutions for managing human-deer conflicts.

The size of a white-tailed deer's home range changes from season to season and is dependent on a variety of habitat dependent factors. Similarly, deer conflicts often arise due to distribution discrepancies on the landscape, rather than actual overpopulation abundance. Therefore, the goal of our community is to offer mitigation resources and to work with residents and property owners to reduce conflicts to a tolerable level.

Below you will find proven strategies to peacefully co-exist and combat the deer in your yard:

Tree Guards

While fencing is the best solution to protect trees from deer, tree guards are also an effective method used to prevent tree damage from deer rubs. Deer rubs occur in late summer or early fall when male deer rub the velvet off their newly acquired antler growth or during rut season, but deer guards should be kept up throughout the winter. The size of the rub usually varies with the size of the deer. Rubbing stations are often the trunks of saplings or small trees that fit in and around the antlers perfectly, but larger trees are not immune to deer damage.

Samples of Tree Guards:



2' - \$5.49 ea.
3' - \$7.99 ea.
4' - \$9.00 ea.



Usually made of
Wrought iron and
very expensive.



12"x36" - \$5.20 ea
12"x48" - \$6.50 ea



2' roll - \$15.99
3' roll - \$22.49
4' roll - \$27.49



\$3.89 - \$6.75 for scented
\$3.49 - \$5.98 for unscented

Landscape Plants

Deer generally spurn thorny and highly aromatic plants and those with leathery, prickly or furry leaves. Succulent plants and grasses are usually safe. Daffodils and narcissus are ignored. For a list of plants rarely or never eaten by deer visit the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, website at <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/portals/wildlife/pdfs/publications/Wildlife%20Management/pub138.pdf>
<http://www.myohiolandscape.com/deer-resistant-plants.cfm>

Deer Bags and Deer Clips

Deer bags are 100% organic and non-toxic. They are comprised of blood and bone meal along with Cayenne Pepper. This product comes in bags or loose powder. For more information about this product you can visit their website at <http://www.greenscreen1.com/gpage1.html>. Green Screen bags cost \$21.95/20, \$35.95/40, and \$79.95/100. Green Screen Loose Powder cost \$18.95/3 lbs. and \$74.95/35 lbs.

Deer Clips contain a deer repelling formulation based on long known data that the garlic odor repels deer, elk and rabbits. These clips, when attached to a plant or fence, will emit the garlic odor for 6 – 8 months. This product consists of food-grade ingredients. The plastic body of clip biodegrades. For more information about this product you can visit their website at <http://plantprotec.com/deerrepellent.html>. Plant Pro-tec Repellent Clips cost \$20/25, \$35.10/50, and \$129.98/250.

Sprays and Repellents

There are several different deer sprays and repellents on the market, Liquid Fence, Deer B Gone, Hinder and Deer-Away are just a few. There are 2 classifications of repellents, including odor-based and taste-based. Odor based repellents are generally more advantageous as animals realize plants are treated prior to having to sample and taste a plant which causes damage. The effectiveness of repellents depends on rainfall, which can dissipate the product, and some repellents do not weather well even without rainfall. Deer are also likely to ignore either taste or odor repellents in times of food scarcity.

When using any form of repellent, follow all directions carefully as indicated on the label. No toxicants are registered for deer control. Poisoning of deer with any product for any reason is illegal. Cost for 1 gallon of Liquid Fence is \$30.19, 1 gallon of Deer Out is \$26.99 and 2.5 gallons is \$49.99

Deer Feeding

Supplemental feed can enhance reproductive rates, transmission of disease and encourage deer to concentrate in specific areas and make deer more tolerant of people. Feeding may also contribute to an artificially high deer population, especially during harsh winters. Because of this The City of Medina discourages feeding of deer.

Motion Activated Sprinklers

Motion activated sprinkler systems are very effective in conditioning animals to stay away from your yard by constantly seeking out their movement and frightening them off with quick, targeted bursts of water combined with startling noise and motion. These systems work 24/7, weather permitting, to protect your yard and home from being damaged by animals. They are easy to install, low-maintenance and eco-friendly. The Scarecrow Water Sprinkler, the Havahart Spray Away, and the HydroGuard are just a couple of examples of this type of sprinkler system. Cost for the HydroGuard is \$69.95.

High Pitch Sound Waves

This is a highly effective electronic yard protector using adjustable powerful ultrasonic sound waves to scare deer and keep them away from your yard. The sound is inaudible to humans. This deer repellent is humane. It will cover up to 4,000 square feet (oval pattern, 80' out from unit and 50' wide). Cost for the Deer Repeller Pro is \$99.98.

There are ways to co-exist with wildlife, and enjoy their beauty, without experiencing the damage they may cause just by following some of the techniques above. If you have further questions or would like to receive technical guidance for your property please contact the Ohio Division of Wildlife at 1-800-WILDLIFE.