

Preparing for Mammal Pests

Dealing with Deer

- Deer can be the most destructive mammal for your garden
- Fencing can be extremely effective at preventing Deer conflicts
- Fence must be minimum 8' tall.

Tips for a Deer Proof Garden

- Always close the gate
- Deer can jump 10', but rarely will, unless you leave the gate open and they learn how delicious your garden is.

Deer Love to Eat:

- Strawberry plants
- Lettuce
- Radicchio
- Everything else
- There are not Deer proof plants.



Raccoons, Rabbits, and Rodents

- Raccoons may visit your garden to eat tree fruit and sweet corn.
- If this becomes a problem, consider growing fruit with thorns and berries in general (difficult to climb)
- Rabbits are rarely very destructive. They are usually nibblers, nibble a little bit of things, a nuisances. Can be destructive for small gardens. Fencing usually is effective
- Rodents - populations goes through boom and bust cycles. Often eat: strawberries, and overwintered roots. Attracted to corn and tomatoes as well. If in a problem area, avoid low growing crops, trellis tomatoes to keep food off the ground.

Ground Hogs

- Groundhogs are competitive with deer as the most destructive mammal for your garden.
- Fencing can prevent groundhog conflicts, but it is often NOT 100% effective.
- Trapping and removal is often necessary
- Use a live trap and follow local laws and rules for relocation.

Tips for a Groundhog Proof Garden

- Walk the perimeter of your garden at least once a week looking for holes

Groundhog Behavior

- Can climb trees
- Can burrow
- Will eat everything
- Favorite foods:
 - Cilantro, brassicas, lettuce
 - Apples, peanut butter

Deer Fence Plan

1. Use 8' deer fencing.
2. Materials
 - a. Black Plastic Deer fencing - cheap, but can break
 - b. Metal Deer fencing - a little more expensive, but worth it. Can handle weedwhacker on the bottom and strong against aggressive deer
3. Fence Posts:
 - a. Metal T-posts: 8' or 10'
4. Suppliers:
 - a. Kencove - Blairsville, PA
 - b. Deerbusters - online
5. Install fence posts first.
6. Attach fencing material with metal clips or outdoor rated zip ties.
7. Brace fence corners



Ground Hog Fence Plan

1. Install After your deer fence is complete
2. Use a fence with holes 2" x 2" or smaller.
3. Materials:
 - a. Welded wire fencing
 - b. Hardware cloth (expensive)
4. Install on a L shape along the base of your fence as in the photo on the left
 - a. The bottom of the L discourages burrowing.
 - b. Use landscape staples to secure bottom of L to ground.
5. Attach top portion to your deer fence

