



Riverview Garden Club Helpful Hints



January 2021

“Oh dear, what can the matter be”? Remember that song from your childhood? Well now it’s “Oh *deer*, what can the matter be? What you ate my flowers again?” Yes deer can be a problem in our area, and it is so frustrating to try to keep them away! Lists of plants that deer won’t eat should be taken with a grain of salt, because deer will eat anything—including rose bushes and cactus—if they are hungry enough. Here are a few suggestions you can try. Remember persistence pays!

- Use scented soap to repel deer. Drill a hole in a bar of scented soap (I use Irish Spring), pass a string through the hole and hang the bar in a tree.
- Stuff human hair in sections of old nylons, tie closed and place around the garden. Replace bags once a month. Ask your beauty salon for floor sweepings.
- Mix one egg per cup of water in a blender, and let it ferment for several days. Add a clove of garlic to make it stronger. Pour or sprinkle over vulnerable plants. Or, stuff old stockings with crushed garlic cloves and hang them in trees or shrubs.
- Try commercial products such as *Deer Off*, *Deer Out* or *Liquid Fence*. They must be reapplied regularly, and all of these products will be washed off by rain or watering.
- Spritz plants with homemade hot pepper spray made with one gallon of water, 4-5 tablespoons of cayenne pepper and one tablespoon vegetable oil.
- Try chicken feathers (who has chickens?), ammonia, scented fabric softener strips or fish meal. Blood meal/dried blood will keep away deer but may attract predators to your yard.
- Put up a fence of deer netting. Create wire or mesh cages to protect individual plants, but be sure to cover the top of the cage as well.
- Protect trees and shrubs from rubbing damage with protective trunk wrap sold at garden centers.
- Fill the entryway to your yard with plants that repel deer including catmint, chives, garlic, onions, lavender, mint, sage and thyme. Move susceptible plants away from the deer’s main traffic area.
- Create a deer barrier with solid hedges or trellises to prevent deer from seeing into your yard. They won’t jump where they can’t see.

- Ripe fruit and vegetables attract deer. Keep fruit, corn and peas harvested, then till the corn and peas under the soil.

My favorite spray that I have been using for the past two years is homemade. Add to one and a half gallons of water, two beaten eggs, two tablespoons ammonia, two tablespoons *Murphy's Soap*, (optional one teaspoon hot red pepper flakes). Shake well, let sit at least 24 hours, strain, and add to a two gallon sprayer. Use as needed and store the remainder for the next use. I have to reapply after a rain or watering. If I am faithful, the deer leave my yard alone. If a youngin' decides to try a bite, they walk away after tasting.

Taken December 30, 2020 across the street from my house, a total of 13



--Sandy