

Deer

White-tailed deer are the most common species encountered by humans. We live in an area where we can see many species however. In the ungulate (hoofstock) group, North Idahoans could encounter the White-tailed Deer, the Black-tailed Deer, the Elk, the Moose, the Bighorn Sheep, the Mountain Goat, and possibly the Pronghorn Antelope.

The white-tail is active day or night. They are mostly crepuscular (favoring the dawn and dusk).

Deer are constantly active, high stress, high strung, and nervous animals. Their defense is to run away. They can jump up to 10 feet. They can enter into a space 12 in. x 24 in. They do crawl, therefore the bottom wire of the fence must be at or below 9 inches.

The hair is hollow, therefore creating “an air pocket around them”. This keeps them warm in exceptionally cold weather and cool in the heat of summer.

Breeding takes place from October to January (depending). After a 200 day, gestation, 1 to 3 fawns are born. Usually around May & June.

The ONLY time for concern that a fawn has been orphaned is if the animal is VERY VOCAL.

Herbivorous – eating plant material. They are browsers – not grazers. They favor heavily fertilized ornamental and garden plants. (You know why...it is like we humans and fast food joints! - well sort of.) These plants are very nutritious and taste better than the daily staple of native foods. In early spring, the gardens are often already showing signs of growth well before the natural plant material.

Deterrents and avoidance devices: *The trick is to keep the odor(or negative reinforcement) fresh & to apply as soon as damage is seen!*

- Regularly taking your dog for a walk (on a leash) around your perimeter, thereby marking the territory.
- Placing hair on the perimeter fence (of the garden for example).
- Scattering dog hair around the property boundaries.
- Garlic, soap or fish emulsion fertilizer around the fence.
- Scare devices such as motion lights, scarecrows, water spray

“Thoughtful landscaping with that gives care to the selection and placement of plants”

The best way to save the plants is to deter the Deer before they browse.

Planting ‘deer resistant’ plant species local nurseries have listings of ‘undesirable plant species’

Fenced yards with dogs (sight, sound, smell).

Fencing options: high tensile strand electric, woven chain mesh, solid post,

(Keep in mind the hollow hair and poor conducting hooves of the Deer, more than single strand electric fencing is suggested.)

If you can attract the deer’s nose or tongue to make contact with the electric fencing, you will reinforce the negative consequences of entering ‘human territory’.

To do this: 1.) place a small piece of aluminum foil with peanut butter attached to the wire. 2.) metal bottle caps wired to the fence with cotton fillers scented with apple or another fruit.

To protect the trees: Corrugated plastic sleeves around the trunk will protect from the males rubbing their antlers. Particularly vulnerable trees are stand alone 2 to 3 inch diameter trunk (www.treessentials.com).

More information can be gained at:

www.mydeergarden.com & www.deerresistantplants.com. Garden suppliers and nurseries provide fencing as well as www.bennersgardens.com, www.gardeners.com, www.kencove.com, www.redbrand.com, www.louispage.com, www.maxflex.com. Electric Shock Deer Posts: gardeners.com, wirelessdeerfence.com

Public health concern: the tick is the carrier of lyme disease. This tick will find a deer as its host (or other small mammals). If this tick hops from an infested deer to a human, there is the potential for this human to contract lyme disease.

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