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CONFLICT REDUCTION

Conflict reduction techniques use sight, sound, smell or other sensory stimulation to frighten deer away. The focus is on keeping animals away from vulnerable properties to minimize damage and conflicts.

In some cases, conflict reduction may not solve the problem, but simply transfer the issue to other areas.

Suppliers

Some of the retailers that carry deterrents:

Deer Shield (digital recordings of agitated does or hostile and aggressive bucks to scare deer away).

- Margo Supplies, AB, 403-652-1932
www.margosupplies.com

High-Frequency Sound Sensors

- Borden Mercantile, Victoria
- Home Hardware, Victoria

Motion-Activated Sprinklers

- Buckerfield's Country Store, Central Saanich

Fencing

Most feed and hardware stores will carry fencing products.

DEER-HUMAN CONFLICTS

Deer-human conflicts are on the rise in the Capital Regional District (CRD) and the deer population in many urban, rural and agricultural areas is increasing damage to crops, ornamental and food vegetation. There are also more reports being made concerning public safety and deer-vehicle collisions.

You can use a variety of tactics to block, scare and otherwise deter deer from entering your property, such as fencing, repellents or frightening.

More details are available on our website:
www.crd.bc.ca/deermanagement



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Reducing Deer-Human Conflict



DETERRENTS



FENCING

Fencing is still the most reliable method for keeping deer out of a defined area. The most effective deer fences are at least 8 feet (2.5 metres) high and made of wood or metal. Deer may eat or become entangled in netting or plastic, causing a safety hazard. Barbed wire fences are discouraged, as they can injure wildlife. Horizontal wires strung between extensions to fence posts can increase the height of existing fences. Hanging high visibility strips (i.e. Mylar or aluminum) from these wires can create the illusion of an impenetrable barrier. Allowable fence heights vary throughout the region. Check your local municipal bylaws for height maximums.

The bottom of the fence should touch or even be buried into the ground, leaving no option for animals to force their way under. For wooden fences, spaces between boards should be less than 7 inches (18 centimeters) to prevent smaller deer from squeezing through.

Electric fences can be shorter and still deter entry into a property by delivering a shock when animals touch them; however, the cost of these can be prohibitive for large properties. A single strand of electrical wire along the top of a fence is also an option. Warnings should be posted if electric fences are along public rights of way.

REPELLENTS

Chemical

The most effective repellents work on the deer's keen sense of smell. Protein or bloodmeal based liquid sprayed on plants confuses and discourages deer from eating them. Bobbex and Plantskydd are two examples of scent based repellents that have had some success in the capital region. The product must be applied after each rain to remain effective. Check that chemically based products are safe for use on plants grown for human consumption. Other repellents include human hair, feathermeal, mothballs and ordinary bars of soap hung about a metre apart.

Sound

Deer Shield is an example of a motion-activated sound repellent that uses recordings of deer distress sounds like a bleating doe, danger snorts, and hostile buck calls which trigger a fear and flee response in deer, causing them to move away from the area. Other products, such as Victor or Sonic Shield produce a distracting high-pitched frequency. However, each of these sounds may disturb neighbours and local pets.

Frightening

Deer tend to be afraid of unknown or unfamiliar things and can be frightened off with a variety of sounds such as wind chimes or radios.

Motion-activated sprinklers may condition deer to avoid certain areas and are commonly available at hardware or gardening stores.

Hazing

Frightening deer away with unleashed dogs is only allowed in fenced yards. The BC Wildlife Act has banned the use of unleashed dogs for chasing deer under any other circumstance.



wikimedia: Famartin

DEER ON THE ROAD

The Province, local municipalities and electoral areas are working in partnership with the CRD to minimize deer-vehicle collisions.

The most effective ways to keep animals out of the path of vehicles are roadway planning and design, speed limit reductions, wildlife crossings and right of way brushing. However, some of these can be expensive or difficult to implement and enforce.

Other less effective methods include roadway lighting and wildlife warning signs. Independent research found wildlife reflectors and deer whistles to be ineffective.

AVOIDING COLLISIONS

Scan the roadway ahead for deer. At night their eyes can be reflected in your headlights, especially on high beam. Slow down, especially near animal crossing signs. Take extra caution around dawn and dusk as this is when deer are on the move and are also harder to see. The fall and spring are also times to be vigilant, as deer are more active due to feeding and mating. If you see one deer, there will likely be others nearby. Sounding your horn may startle deer, causing them to run into your path.

More details are available at: www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife_human_interaction/docs/ungulates.html