

Deer

Issue- eating garden plants.

Note – We live in an area where deer are common. It is not realistic to expect to be able to plant a vegetable or flower garden without protecting it from deer. The smaller an area you want to protect, the more effective it will be.

Suggestions-

- ▶ **Build an 8 foot wire mesh fence around a vegetable garden or other sensitive planted areas.**
- ▶ **Use small mini-barriers made of netting to protect individual plants or vulnerable parts of plants.**
- ▶ **Use commercially available tree guards for small trees**
- ▶ **Leave most of your yard with natural vegetation that deer can eat, and plant sensitive plants in small areas that can be easily protected.**
- ▶ **Landscape using deer resistant plants. Lists are available at many garden stores (A list of these plants can be found in the Living with Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest book on page 65 or at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/deer.html#landscaping>), or in the San Juans, from the WSU Extension agent.**
- ▶ **Use repellents that combine disagreeable odors or tastes. They work best when applied before deer develop a routine feeding pattern, so should be applied before leaves or flower buds emerge and new growth appears. Alternate repellents so they don't get used to one flavor, and reapply often.**

Note – A range of commercial repellents are available at garden centers and hardware stores, or at <http://www.nixalite.com/DeerStopper.aspx> .

Home made repellent - . Mix the following in a 1-gallon tank sprayer: 2 beaten and strained eggs (strain them to remove the white strings surrounding the yolk, which could plug the sprayer), 1 cup milk, yogurt, buttermilk, or sour milk, 2 tsp Tabasco sauce or cayenne pepper, 20 drops essential oil of clove, cinnamon, or eucalyptus, 1 tsp cooking oil, 1 tsp liquid dish soap. Top the tank with water. Shake sprayer occasionally and mist onto dry foliage. Application should last 2 to 4 weeks in dry weather.

- ▶ **Use scare tactics such as streamers, blinking lights, noisemakers, scarecrows, and motion activated sprinkler systems. These should be changed often, as the deer will quickly get used to them.**

