

Rabbits

Issue – eating garden plants

- ▶ Fence sensitive areas - A 2-foot-tall fence constructed of chicken wire, supported by sturdy stakes will exclude most rabbits. Rabbits are likely to try to tunnel under the fence, so it should be buried 6 inches underground, or the bottom lined with rocks, bricks, fence post, or other items they can't dig through.
- ▶ To protect a few individual plants, use a 1 gallon plastic milk container with the bottom cut out, or a cylinder of chicken wire placed over the plants. These should be staked to prevent the rabbits pushing them over.
- ▶ To protect small trees, use commercial tree guards, nylon mesh, plastic tubes, or aluminum foil double wrapped around the trunks
- ▶ Use rabbit resistant plants - a list of these may be found at:<http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/rabbits.html#plants>
- ▶ Use scare devices such as Mylar tape, or Mylar party balloons, pinwheels, or other devices placed at ground level. These will only work short term till the rabbits get used to them.
- ▶ The scent of dog urine can also help keep rabbits away, so take your (or your neighbor's) dog for its morning walk around your garden fence.
- ▶ Use taste repellents that render the plant inedible to the rabbit (see deer section above). Products available at garden or hardware stores or at <http://www.nixalite.com/deerandrabbit.aspx>
- ▶ Encourage natural predation by installing hawk or owl perches in the area.

