

The following information is, for the most part, taken from my guidebook, "How to Deer-Proof Your Garden" © 2019 Sandy Baker. All Rights Reserved.

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## ***Repellents***

Contact repellents discourage deer from eating by having an odor and/or taste that is offensive to them. There are homemade and store-bought products. Deer don't like the taste of hot pepper or rotten eggs, so I recommend products that are either egg-based or capsaicin (chili pepper)-based. Deer will need to sample the repellent to realize it is unappealing. Remember the contact repellent only protects the plants that it covers.

Recipes for homemade Contact Repellent:

### *Contact Repellents:*

*Hot Pepper Spray Recipe:* Mix Tabasco Sauce or Cayenne Pepper (2-5 tbsp.) to 1 gallon water, add a tbsp., of vegetable oil. Spray mixture directly on plants you want to protect. Please note -- some plants are susceptible to hot pepper; the mixture should not be used on plants you intend to eat.

*Rotten Egg Recipe:* The basic recipe is 1 egg and 1 cup of water mixed in a blender. To make it more potent, add a clove of garlic, a dash of chili pepper or Tabasco sauce. Remove the mixture and let it ferment for a few days. (Adding Szechwan oil also keeps raccoons away.) It is recommended that plants be sprayed with this mixture early in the day so the solution dries before the sun hits it.

I recommend you do not buy predator urine, because it is considered to be ineffective and expensive, and one must question the origin. It is frustrating for gardeners to spend money and time on a product that does not protect their plants, so stick with egg-based or capsaicin (chili pepper)-based repellents.

Store bought Repellent: Liquid Fence



Where to buy Liquid Fence: your local garden centers or on line:

<https://www.liquidfence.com/products/deer-and-rabbit-control/deer-and-rabbit-concentrate.aspx>

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Fertilizer that is also a deer repellent: Milorganite



**Milorganite** is an all-purpose slow-release nitrogen fertilizer that can be used safely on lawns, flowers, vegetables, shrubs and trees, as well as a carrier when spreading grass seed.

Where to buy Milorganite: Your local garden centers or on line:

<https://www.amazon.com/Milorganite-Organic-Nitrogen-Fertilizer-36-Pound/dp/B000UGPK9U>

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## **Deterrents**

Deterrents work because they startle the deer, offending either their sense of hearing and/or vision. The key to visual deterrents is motion. Any sudden movement

can make deer "back off". Motion-sensored sprinklers can cause deer to avoid an area.

*Smart Scarecrow Motion-Activated Sprinkler* - This "intelligent" device senses animals (by their heat and movement) up to 30 feet away in a 100-degree arc. When an animal enters the area, the Smart Scarecrow pivots to send a rapid burst of water (about 2 cups) scaring the intruder away without harming it.

## ScareCrow



Scarecrow Demonstration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jHYV6nJksw>

Owners' Manual for Contech Scarecrow:

[http://watergarden.com/store/product/PredatorControl/scarecrow/scarecrow\\_instructions.pdf](http://watergarden.com/store/product/PredatorControl/scarecrow/scarecrow_instructions.pdf)

Where to Buy Contech Scarecrow: <https://www.amazon.com/ScareCrow-Motion-Activated-Animal-Repellent/dp/B000071NUS>

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## Fencing

A range of fencing alternatives work. Some gardeners asked what I personally use. My favorite fencing material for enclosing small areas and/or building cages is:

**Yard Gard Green Mesh Vinyl Coated Welded Wire Fence**



Where to buy: [https://www.idealtruevalue.com/store/p/144864-Yard-Gard-36-x-50-Green-4-x-2-Mesh-Vinyl-Coated-Welded-Wire.aspx?feed=Froogle&qclid=CjwKCAjwiN\\_mBRBBEiwA9N-e\\_mDOIT\\_RyjAfCnKIKm6foo\\_y2rKTqKPfH0a\\_3ssq5lmmy1Cs\\_8d9-xoC6cwQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.idealtruevalue.com/store/p/144864-Yard-Gard-36-x-50-Green-4-x-2-Mesh-Vinyl-Coated-Welded-Wire.aspx?feed=Froogle&qclid=CjwKCAjwiN_mBRBBEiwA9N-e_mDOIT_RyjAfCnKIKm6foo_y2rKTqKPfH0a_3ssq5lmmy1Cs_8d9-xoC6cwQAvD_BwE)

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## Deer Resistant Plants

Here's Cornell's list: <http://warren.cce.cornell.edu/gardening-landscape/deer-resistant-plants>

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