

[A 'DEER' DILEMMA]

Deer are common in north-eastern Ohio. They stroll across the landscaped grounds here at Advanstar Communications on a regular basis. They are a beautiful sight, but each winter and early spring they eat and damage many of the ornamentals that beautify our corporate headquarters. In fact, our Grounds Manager Tom Sprague no longer plants spring bulbs. Once the tulips break ground and prepare to blossom, the deer nip them off.

They damage evergreens too. This past winter we covered many of the smaller evergreens with burlap. This seemed to work. But burlap isn't such a pretty sight.

In an adjacent Cleveland suburb about 140 people crowded into a city hall. They wanted something done about the hungry deer eating their landscape plants. One man, the owner of a 16-acre horticultural park, said he put up a 7-foot-high fence to keep them out. They just jumped over it, he said.

A wildlife official told the group that there are over 8,000 deer in Cuyahoga County. Most live in and around our scenic Metro Park system. He suggested a bow hunting season to reduce the deer population.

Judging from comments we often receive here at LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT,

deer are a big problem for landscape plants just about everywhere in the United States.

Occasionally we get product releases claiming success for deer repellents—products made from lion dung and coyote urine. Mesh netting. Electric fences. Ultrasonic devices that scare deer away.

Tell us about your experiences. If you've had success keeping deer from damaging your, or clients', landscapes our readers really want to hear from you.

Until we do, consider this list of plants rarely or seldom

severely damaged by deer: Barberry, Redosier Dogwood, Forsythia, Honeylocust, Beautybush, Norway Spruce, White Spruce, Colorado Spruce, Mugo Pine, Austrian Pine, Scotch Pine, and Common Lilac. The list was compiled several years ago by horticulturists and wildlife specialists at Cornell University.

The list of plants "occasionally severely damaged" by deer is much longer: White Fir, Red Maple, Silver Maple, Sugar Maple, Common Horsechestnut, Serviceberry, Cottoneaster, Common Witchhazel, Rose-of-Sharon,

Hydrangea, Privet, Eastern White Pine, Potentilla, Douglas Fir, White Oak, Northern Red Oak, Willows, Anthony Waterer Spirea.

Bridalwreath Spirea, Persian Lilac, Japanese Tree Lilac, American Linden, Canadian Hemlock, Old-Fashioned Weigela, Norway Maple, Eastern Redbud, Clematis, Corneliancherry Dogwood, Winged Euonymus, Apples, Crabapples, Cherries, Plums, Rhododendrons, Hybrid Tea Rose, Yews, American Arborvitae.

Your turn

We like to report what readers think about current topics in LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT. Tell us what you've done to reduce or eliminate DEER landscape damage. Tear out or photocopy this page, and fax or mail your response to: LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44130 • Fax: 216/891-2675.

Are deer a landscape problem either for you or your customers?

Yes COMMENTS _____
 No _____

Do you use any particular products to discourage deer damage?

Yes COMMENTS _____
 No _____

What strategies have you used to avoid or limit deer damage?

COMMENTS _____

Name: _____

Company: _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____