

## CONTROLLING ANIMALS IN THE GARDEN

Rabbits, chipmunks, woodchucks, and deer are a few of the most common animals that can cause damage to the garden. This installment will focus on controlling deer damage, but many of these methods will work for other animals as well.

There are 3 main avenues in which to prevent deer from feeding in the garden; planting undesirable plants, applying repellants, or exclusion.

Some of the plants that deer general avoid are lilac, boxwood, daffodils, clematis, snowball viburnum, iris and foxglove.

Repellants are another means of keeping out deer and other animals, but the key to success here is to change products periodically, so the deer don't get used to the smell of the repellant. Again, your local nursery or Master Gardener hotline will have a list of commercially available repellants. As always, be sure to read the label directions carefully before using.

The last method, exclusion, may be the most effective means of protecting the garden but also the most time consuming. For deer, a fence 8 feet high or higher will keep them out. For smaller animals such as rabbits or rodents, chicken wire buried a foot underground and 3 feet high will work well.

The **Master Gardener Hotline** is open from April to October, Monday through Friday. Lines are available 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at 888-678-3464

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