

Whitetails, Blacktails and Mule Deer

Wintertime's Triple-Threat for American Gardeners

Compiled by the makers of Deer Scram Deer Repellent

No matter where deer are found in North America, individual deer survival through winter depends a lot upon how well the deer prepares for winter's "drought" of foods. And their preparation for the upcoming winter is no more evident than in your gardens and yards right now!

As crisp nighttime temperatures signal the arrival of fall across the United States and Canada, those same cool nights spur white-tailed, black-tailed and mule deer to greedily feed insatiable appetites. Woodland mast crops -- such as acorns, sumac peas, beechnuts and locust pods - are in abundance as autumn winds blow these tasty, important wildlife treats to the ground. The effects of winter are just around the corner, and, depending upon where they live, deer in the United States and Canada will pack on the fat provided by these and other natural carbohydrate-rich forage foods in October, November and December.

But that won't be all they eat.

Winter's effect upon deer

bestows itself well before December 21, the first official day of winter. Deer will survive on whatever twigs or brush they can find, but they'll also add your roses, azaleas, rhododendrons, hostas and many more ornamental trees, shrubs and cold-weather vegetable gardens to their fall menu. The "rut" - the annual breeding season - is upon them, the scarcity of natural forage is only weeks away, and, as a result, your prized plants represent cold-season cold-cuts that could attract deer from as much as 50 miles away! It's estimated that, in general, deer consume 3 percent of their body weight each day. Therefore, a buck weighing 125 to 250 pounds requires from 4,000 to 6,000 calories each day. That equals 4 to 10 pounds of grass, forbs, nuts, fruits and more that a single deer must consume daily, depending upon its gender, body weight and the season.



However, the good news

is that the metabolism of white-tails slows down in the winter, so the animals don't have to eat as much to keep their bodies going. But the bad news is that they'll gather in numbers during the cold months in what some wildlife biologists call a "deer yard" - a location

where food is found (but not necessarily abundant) and the temperature is relatively warm. Among the most likely congregation areas will be yards, gardens and agriculture fields on south-facing slopes where sunshine is abundant. Watch deer in these groups closely and you'll frequently see fights break out for the

food.

Deer experts explain that during periods when deer foods are abundant, deer are selective feeders, choosing their foods based on the season, plant palatability and availability of alternative foods, weather conditions and nutritional needs. On the other hand, the hungrier they are the less selective they are. One deer expert says no plant species will be avoided by deer under all conditions.



Wintertime gardeners

across North America can attest to that statement. Deer are creatures of habit. Once they've found a food source, they'll return to that food source. And at no other time of year, perhaps, are deer most likely to return to yards, gardens and grain fields to feed than during the winter. Breaking that pattern, once it is established, is one of the hardest tasks gardeners face.

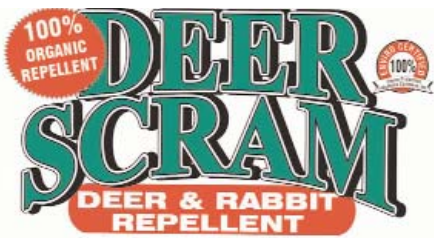
If you have had foraging deer damage your shrubs, gardens and trees during the warm months of the year, rest assured deer will return to your property in the fall months. In most cases, suburban homeowners are no threat to deer. Deer often won't run unless chased. They learn the limits of controlled dogs, and they even learn the noises associated with those who feed deer. Preventing damage by foraging deer is easier than breaking the pattern of deer foraging after it starts. Once they adapt to your garden, one deer expert says, they adopt it.

Perhaps no deer barrier is more effective than a fence. But deer can easily clear fences as high as 6 feet. That's an expensive fence, no matter the material it's made of, and the cost of building that fence is compounded by the length of the barrier. Imagine building a fence 6 feet high to encompass a yard 2 acres or more in size!

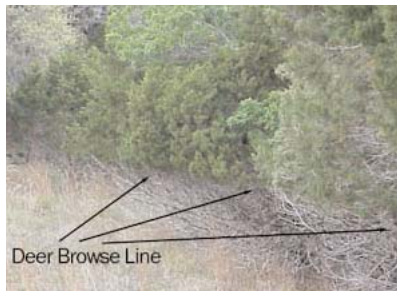
So, how do you begin a winter-season plan to protect your valuable flowers, shrubs, and trees from foraging deer? Initiate your plan now, using the strength of a deterrent program that stops deer from entering your flowerbeds, gardens and even your yard!

1. Learn where deer eat. Deer prefer to feed in open areas near cover. Clear-cuts, parks and suburban neighborhoods are the perfect habitat, where rich mixtures of vegetation produce abundant food and cover. They're easily attracted to areas of open lawns, succulent summer gardens and plentiful ornamental shrubs where patches of forest cover stand nearby.





2. Learn what deer eat. Deer opt for variety over quantity, and they prefer a variety of tender new shoots and lush foliage, which they find in abundance during the warm months in landscaped yards and gardens. As winter approaches, browsing deer move about quickly, looking for food and nibbling on different



plants to determine their palatability. The type of eater a deer is depends on the deer's geographic location, changes in climate and genetics, but deer will eat just about any type of foliage. They prefer to eat browse - leaves, twigs and various shoots and vines -- and "green types" of foliage. Deer frequently feed on flowers, fruits and vegetables and the buds and twigs of fruit trees and ornamental shrubs.

3. Identify the damage. Damage to landscape plantings and ornamentals may occur at any time of year but is usually most severe in late fall, winter and early spring when other food supplies are limited. You can distinguish the damage caused to plants by feeding deer by the ragged, broken ends of branches of plants and trees that have been browsed by deer, which do not have incisor teeth.



Rabbits and rodents have incisors and leave clean-cut surfaces where they have nibbled upon plants. The height (up to 6 feet) the damage is found off the ground is another indication that rules out our small mammals.

4. Assault their sense of security. While deer are herd animals, bucks are rarely seen with does except during the "rut" - the annual breeding season, which generally occurs in the fall but varies by geographical location and herd genetics. Does,

fawns and yearlings, however, are very social, congregational, even predictable animals. Fawns are dependent and learn from the does, including how to use their remarkable sense of smell for locating food and survival. Their nose will lead them to return over and over again to areas where food is tasty, abundant and safe to forage. Their nose will also alert deer to nearby danger. Disrupt their sense of security and you've achieved the primary factor for turning deer away from your valuable plants, gardens, shrubs and trees. Deer have good memories and learn from each other. When one deer is afraid to return to an area, other deer - including fawns - also will be reluctant to enter the area.

Deer Scram is your best deer repellent because it attacks a deer's sense of safety. Blended from selected organic components, Deer Scram will keep deer off your plantings because, through their uncanny sense of smell, Deer Scram convinces deer that harm is nearby. Deer Scram will change deer behavior. As they near the applied barrier of Deer Scram, deer actually alert to a sense of danger - even death! Its unique blend of organic ingredients targets a deer's remarkable sense of smell. As the scent of death reaches the deer, a genetic biological defense mechanism to flee from predators is triggered. Watch deer flee from the area or avoid it completely! The association of the fear of death with Deer Scram will lead to a profound learning experience for the deer and, with proper re-application of Deer Scram, the deer will not return to the area.

Deer Scram is an all-natural, biodegradable deer repellent that guarantees pesky white-tailed, black-tailed and mule deer will stop feeding on your prized gardens, shrubs and trees for 45 to 60 days per application. Deer Scram is a fully organic granular deer-control product that contains no harmful chemicals or toxins that could hurt the animals, environment and, most importantly, you or your family.

Get Deer Scram™ Now!
America's Finest Deer & Rabbit Repellent™
 Protect your plants, ornamentals, trees
 & vegetable gardens this winter from pesky deer & rabbits



Get 100% plant protection now from foraging deer & rabbits!

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