



Search input field with a 'Search' button

- Home
- News
- Arts
- Opinion
- Events
- Outside
- Ads
- Subscribe
- Newsstand

Home » Gardenwise » Gardenwise: Oh Deer!

- LATEST
- POPULAR
- COMMENTS
- TAGS

Gardenwise: Oh Deer!

Posted by East End Beacon • June 20, 2017 • Gardenwise • 1 Comment



White-tailed deer love your landscaping.

By Susan Tito

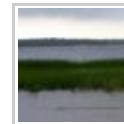
Attracting wildlife to your property is embracing the gardenwise lifestyle. Many birds, frogs, small mammals and insects occupy important niches in the local ecosystem, and their daily activities give you a front-row seat to nature's grandest show. But there is one animal visitor that not only strikes fear in the hearts of gardeners, the mere mention of it is as offensive as the worst four-letter word.



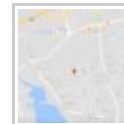
This Morning's
Bulletin — 6.21.17
June 21, 2017



Gardenwise: Oh
Deer! June 20, 2017



This Morning's
Bulletin — 6.20.17
June 20, 2017



Hate Assault
Reported in
Hampton Bays;
Police Seek
Information June 20, 2017

VICKY SELLS THE NORTH FORK

If you'd like to learn the true value of your home, call me for a free market evaluation. We'll get your questions answered and set you on a profitable track to maximizing your most important investment.



VICTORIA GERMAISE
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
President's Circle Award, 2016
at Douglas Elliman Real Estate



© 2017 DOUGLAS ELLIMAN REAL ESTATE. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY.

GET OUR WEEK IN

I'm talking about D-E-E-R.

If you live in Suffolk County, you've probably encountered a deer at one time or another. If you live on the East End, there's a good chance you have a problem.

How bad is the situation?

"It's extremely bad," said Tamson Yeh, a turfgrass and land management specialist at the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Riverhead. "We are absolutely overwhelmed with deer."

To understand the breadth of the problem, it's important to know the statistics.

"The number of deer per square mile is very significant. We should have a maximum of 35, but 15 is best," Ms. Yeh said. "In Suffolk County, we have between 100 to 250 deer per square mile."



Susan Tito

So, what's sustaining all those hungry deer? It just might be your garden.

It's a no-brainer that you'll want to discourage deer from treating your property like an all-you-can-eat buffet. In addition to destroying your prized ornamentals, these animals are host to the deer tick, which carries several pathogens, including the one that causes Lyme disease.

But fear not — there are steps you can take to reclaim your garden. The remedy, however, depends on the severity of the situation.

If you don't have a lot of plant damage, you may be able to use a repellent. Those that smell like rotten eggs work best and come in topical foliar sprays, or consider making your own. Look online for a recipe to try.

Capsaicin — hot pepper spray — is another possibility, as are applications containing ingredients that are unpalatable to deer, such as blood meal and coyote urine. Rotate repellants to ensure that these hungry browsers don't get used to the stench. Many repellants lose potency after four to eight weeks, sooner if it rains or if you irrigate. Reapply as needed.

Another option for gardens not under heavy attack is to plant deer-resistant varieties. Keep in mind, though, that there's no such thing as a deer-proof

REVIEW

Email Address

Subscribe



Tweets by @byoungeast

Beth Young Retweeted



East End Beacon

@eastendbeacon

At Readers' Request, Long Island Publisher Launches Old Fashioned Print Newspaper:
tinyurl.com/yarlonac

At Readers' R...

A Long Island ...
wshu.org

17 Jun

Beth Young Retweeted



East End Beacon

@eastendbeacon

Hate Assault Reported in Hampton Bays; Police Seek Information:
wp.me/p3B9NQ-9sP



Embed

[View on Twitter](#)

plant. There are some plants deer tend to bypass, but many others they find highly attractive. It all depends on where you live and the availability of food.

“If we have a very severe winter or if there’s drought, there’s not much browse for them and they will eat anything to keep their bellies full,” said Ms. Yeh.

Not-so-fun fact: A deer consumes about 6 to 8 pounds of plants every day.

You’ll save yourself a lot of grief if you research which plants deer prefer. For example, hostas — a mainstay in the shade garden — are irresistible to deer. Planting hosta in deer country and hoping they won’t get munched is like inviting your gluttonous Uncle Tony to a barbecue and hoping he doesn’t go for seconds and thirds.

Rutgers University maintains an indispensable database of landscape plants ranked by deer resistance on a scale of A to D. “A” plants are rarely damaged; those in the “D” category are frequently severely damaged. To view Rutgers’ comprehensive list, visit <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/deerresistance/>.

If you are one of the hapless gardeners whose property is under heavy deer attack, the aforementioned tips won’t protect your plantings. Your best bet is to put up a fence — but not just any kind. You need one constructed out of high-tensile woven wire that’s 8 feet tall or higher.

Alternately, consider installing a double row of 4-foot-tall fencing spaced 3 to 4 feet apart. Although deer are excellent jumpers, they have poor depth perception. The double fence gives the illusion that there isn’t enough room to land on the other side.

The ideal fence also shouldn’t have much clearance on the bottom. “Deer have been known to knuckle under fences,” said Ms. Yeh.

To be sure, putting up a barrier is the most effective deer-proofing solution, but it can be costly. So before you do anything, “check before you erect,” said Ms. Yeh, as local municipalities may have specific regulations and codes governing fence installation.

With a little information at your fingertips, you can find the right solution to your deer problem and bar Bambi from browsing in your backyard.

As for thwarting hungry Uncle Tony, you’re on your own.

Susan Tito is a freelance writer and proprietor of Summerland Garden Design and Consulting. She earned a certificate in ornamental garden design from the New York Botanical Garden and is a member of the American Horticultural Society. She can be reached at sttito630@gmail.com.



Share this:



Related



This Morning's Bulletin - 6.21.17
June 21, 2017
In "Top Stories"



Sharpshooters set sights on East End deer; public concern abounds in towns
October 21, 2013
In "Government"



Deer in the Headlights as Hunting Season Nears
September 2, 2015
In "Government"

Like 2



About **East End Beacon**

The East End Beacon is your guide to social and environmental issues, arts & culture on the East End of Long Island.

[View all post by East End Beacon](#)

Comment (1)

Have Something To Say ?



Rick Kedenburg Think about planting Native Plants in your garden. I do and in addition to being deer resistant they attract our useful pollinators. These include butterflies and hummingbirds to name a few. Lets keep them local and healthy. Here is a useful website.
Best, rk

June 20, 2017

[Reply](#)

<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>

Leave your comment here

Type your comment here

Name Email Website

Post Comment



[About the Beacon](#) [Our Staff](#) [Contact Us](#) [Advertise](#)

copyright 2013-present beacon publications