

DEER FENCING

The Urban Farmers Project



VICTORY GARDEN
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There is significant deer pressure in many parts of Lafayette. Deer and a vegetable garden on the same plot do not mix well.

from entering properties. This fencing is lightweight, nearly invisible and requires no special tools to install.

Where Do I Get It?

All of the world's high-quality low-visibility polypropylene deer fencing is made by a single producer, who sell through various companies such as:

[Deer Busters](#)

[Benner's Gardens](#)

[McGregor Fence Co.](#)

and others

What Size Should I Get?

The standard Polypropylene fencing comes in varying sizes from 4ft to 8ft tall. The most commonly used material is 7.5ft plastic mesh. The mesh opening is between 1.5 to 2 inches and the breaking load is around 600 pounds.

The 7.5ft fencing material makes a 7ft fence with 6" of excess material at the bottom for stapling the mesh to the ground.

How Much Does It Cost?

Of course it depends on the size of your garden, location and other



factors. Some of the dealers have special packages. As an example the 7.5ftX100ft small garden enclosure at Deer Buster costs around \$300. This is probably not everything you need and you should plan on some additional costs depending on your land and your location.

Need Deer Fencing?

Many of you are interested and need to install deer fencing. First let me say I personally do not have any experience with deer or installing deer fencing. But like anything else it's a matter of research plus some trial and error, before we find the right solution. With that in mind here is the information that I have gathered.

When Do I Need the Fencing?

Please install the deer fencing as soon as possible. Many of the cover crops that we need to grow are ideal food for the deer and once they get used to coming to your site for a daily snack, it is much harder to persuade the deer to move on past your property.

What Are My Options?

This webpage [Fencing, Deer Fencing](#) lists the various solutions for dealing with the deer pressure around a garden. It includes electric fencing, tall perimeter fencing, parallel fences and using dogs to deter deer. You can read about the various options. In this document we will cover the common commercially available solution, which is the 7 foot tall perimeter fencing.

I also would like to see at least one family experiment with double fencing which is described at the end of this document.

What is it?

The typical deer fence, is a 7'6" high plastic mesh which can deter deer

Deer Fencing

Installation

Deer fencing should be installed properly. Otherwise hungry deer will find a way through the fence and your investment will be wasted.

The deer fencing vendors have extensive installation instructions and videos to help a homeowner install the fencing properly.

Experimental Deer Fencing

While a 7ft fence is a good deterrent for the deer, in some cases deer have jumped over 10' and even 12' fences. Two important characteristics of deer are that 1) they have poor eye sight and 2) they leap vertically.

Another option for fencing is building parallel fences. Dan Sherman who built a beautiful garden at his previous residence in Lafayette, built such a fence. I asked him about it's effectiveness. Dan wrote back a clear explanation of their experience including the enclosed pictures.

I would like to find one or two families (preferably without a dog outside) that are willing to experiment with this method. If it works the cost of the materials and installation may be less than the tall perimeter fencing.

Letter from Dan

"Regarding the deer fence, an arborist we had over for a consultation suggested the fence. The idea is that deer have poor depth perception and don't like to attempt broad jumps. So a broad fence could be more effective than a tall fence. The arborist suggested two 4-foot high fences, 4 feet apart. She said one or both can be natural (dense shrubs or fence with vines growing on it) and that welded wire fencing is sufficient. We decided to give it a try primarily for aesthetics, but also because we were curious if it

would actually work. We were so sold on this idea of the 2 short fences that we never priced a standard (7 1/2 foot?) deer fence, so I don't know if the 2 short fences really are less expensive. We used standard 2" x 4" welded wire fence and used the suggested 4' high with 4' between fences. The fence was fastened to standard metal fence posts. All posts were sunk in the ground - nothing cemented. The fence was hand-tightened, so was a bit loose in some spots, but because of the double-fence we didn't feel like that mattered. It was on a hillside, in the middle of the weeds and with the exception of the posts, was nearly invisible. In the 3 years we lived with that fence, we never had a deer enter the property. It's important to note that our two dogs may have had as much to do with that as the fence, but on many occasions I found deer grazing just outside the fence early



in the morning before the dogs had been let outside."

- Dan Sherman

If you are planting fruit trees only, another possible solution is to fence each tree. For an example with instructions visit: [Keep Deer Out](#)

