

DEER MANAGEMENT FAQ

The white-tailed deer is a common backyard visitor in Dublin. They typically feed on gardens, landscape plants, trees and agricultural crops.

We certainly understand the frustration deer can cause regarding landscape damage, pet interactions and other associated issues. Herd management options are complex and the City is taking a comprehensive approach to determining the appropriate actions.

Below are answers to frequent questions we receive and tips on managing deer on your property.

HOW DO I STOP DEER FROM EATING MY PLANTS AND BIRDSEED?

Being proactive and using several strategies when managing deer on your property is essential. Deer are commonly interested in new plant growth in the spring but tend to be curious and "browse" year-round.

Protective structures often keep deer out of gardens or away from young or sensitive trees. Fencing is commonly used, though it is only effective if layered and angled short to tall at approximately 18, 26 and 36 inches. Temporary fencing, like chicken wire, can also be installed and should be 26 to 36 inches tall. Another option is laying a 3-foot wide strip of chicken wire or other mesh fencing flat on the ground. Flashing or amber holiday lights can also be plugged into a motion sensor.

Deer damage to ornamental plants is very frustrating. You can minimize the damage they can do by avoiding plants they prefer and instead use plants listed in the table at the bottom of [this document](#) that deer avoid due to toxicity, fragrance or texture.

Deer-proof bird feeders are suggested as an effective way to sway deer from eating birdseed. Opting for seeds with bitter or a spicy coating also deters deer but keeps the birds interested.

CAN I FEED THE DEER?

The City asks that residents please refrain from feeding the deer by any means. Deer are creatures of habit and will return to the same area. It is strongly suggested that neighbors work together to eliminate feeding activity and identify common areas that may entice the deer. Staff have found that deer can become aggressive and persistent when fed by humans.

While we understand some love deer and other wildlife, not feeding the animals is the most effective way to eliminate interactions now.

WHAT ARE OTHER WAYS TO MANAGE DEER ON MY PROPERTY?

Hazing is a method of frightening deer away from your yard with loud noises or movement. This is a short-term solution as deer quickly become used to the hazing unless techniques are rotated out. Common practices include:

- Motion-activated sprinklers
- "Predator Eyes" or motion-activated lights
- "Deer Scram," a granular repellent odor
- Menthol rub on leaves

Utilizing these and the other tips listed in this document will help reduce the number of deer entering your yard.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Our Nature Education Coordinator, Barbara Ray, is happy to meet with neighbors and the HOA to provide some advice and guidance on plant selection, repelling deer, keeping deer away from your yard and answering any questions.

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