ABATEMENT TECHNIQUES
DEER

ELECTRIC FENCING

Wildlife will respect electricity. This fence **(1E)** was designed to take advantage of certain deer characteristics. By using two tiers of fence, deer are more likely to hesitate at the fence as they must judge not only height but distance. The larger, white rope is more visible to the deer, while the placement of scent caps at strategic locations encourages a deer to investigate the fence at the source of the appealing odor. A wet nose or tongue on the fence will strongly discourage any return. The approximate heights of the two strands on the exterior portion of the fence are 18 & 30 inches. The 30" high fence is definitely energized while the lower strand may not be. The inner strand is placed at 50 to 72". The 30 inch, exterior fence is baited.

When using an electric fence, there are keys to its success. The sooner a fence is in place after planting the better. It is easier to deter use of the field before a crop is up and any use is established by deer. When placing a fence try to complete the project in one day. Any fence in place overnight should be 'hot'. It is better if deer don't have the opportunity to go over or by a fence when it is not energized. One successful trip will make future discouragement more difficult. Do not attempt to fence a field or area larger than you have time to maintain. A short in the fence due to vegetation or any other reason may give deer an opportune time to get past the fence unchecked. Again, once a pattern is established it is harder to break.

A 'bait cup' with apple scent (2E), for example, will encourage a deer to investigate with it's nose or tongue. This type of negative conditioning is a solid lesson . Deer will avoid similar fencing in the future. The strategic location of these baits near trails or placed frequently enough so approaching deer smell the bait and investigate is important. It is important that the bait is kept fresh. It may also be important to be aware of peak movement times for deer. Late spring, April-early June, finds deer moving from winter areas to summer areas as well as juveniles dispersing for the first time to new areas. At these times, it is important to keep bait fresh as a 'new' deer could move into any given area. This type of movement may also occur in late August—November. Changing baits from year to year might be advised so resident deer don't become attuned to the same scent. Utilizing a gland scent in the fall may be appropriate.

A tree planting shown below in a CRP field (3E) was protected on the left side by an electric fence similar to the one shown on the previous page. This planting is 4 years old at this point and the trees in the right half of the picture which were outside the protected area show the results of extreme browsing by an under harvested deer herd.


1E


2E


3E

ABATEMENT TECHNIQUES

TREE GUARDS (TUBING)

This type of protection is not new but can be very affective protection. In picture **4E**, tubes were put in place in late summer every year to protect them from bucks rubbing. The closest tree shows the effect of no protection.

This type of protection is also used for rabbits, voles and other small mammals which would otherwise chew on the bark, especially over the winter months. For chewing problems it is best to overestimate snow depth to keep the tube well above the deepest snow cover.

Picture **5E** shows an effective way to protect individual trees from multiple forms of attack. The outer fence prevents deer browsing and rubbing. The tube keeps small mammals from chewing. The area around the tree has been sprayed to keep vegetation maintenance to a minimum. Keeping vegetation immediately adjacent to the tree discourages rodents from making a home.

This type of barrier **(6E)** protected this conifer tree in northern Iowa during the bad winter of 2000-01. Apparently, what can't be seen won't be browsed. A variation on this theme has also been shown to work. Apparently deer are reluctant to jump over a solid barrier. It seems they aren't going to jump when they can't see where they are going to land. Experiments fed fenced deer in a certain location of a field every day. After the deer were accustomed to traveling to this portion of the field daily to eat, a 'curtain' was gradually raised at one foot intervals periodically. The deer were willing to jump this barrier until it reached a height when they could not see over to know where they were going to land. So, even though they had been conditioned, over time to jump a solid barrier to reach their food, they refused to do so when the barrier reached a height of 5-5.5'.

ABATEMENT TECHNIQUES

EIGHT FOOT FENCING

An 8' fence **(7E)**, while not 100%, is a very effective means of preventing deer from entering an area. Cost versus potential losses is an obvious consideration. On relatively small acres and especially on higher value products, this type of long term solution may be advisable. Eight foot woven wire fence, 11 foot t– posts and 12' by 5" wooden posts are readily purchased from several suppliers in Iowa. Generally, placing a t-post every 10 ', a wooden post every 100' and double wood post & brace every 660' is suggested.

A variation on an 8 foot fence uses plastic fencing for a temporary solution **(8E)**. Here stored corn is being protected.

ABATEMENT TECHNIQUES

GEESE

ELECTRIC FENCING

Wildlife will respect electricity. This fence **(1F, 2F)** was designed to keep goose broods **(3F)** from walking from the neighbors pond in the background into a growing bean field. Lines placed at 6 and 18" above the ground and accented with mylar tape stopped geese from entering this field.


7E


1F

8E


3F


2F

ABATEMENT TECHNIQUES

WILDLIFE SPECIES CAUSING DAMAGE: Pheasants
CROP: Corn seedlings

Mylar tape and /or an exploder may be best way to keep pheasants from a field **(1G)**.

WILDLIFE SPECIES CAUSING DAMAGE: Geese
CROP: Corn seedlings
This approach could also be used on resident or migrating geese in the spring or early summer. Wet areas in fields may attract waterfowl in March and April and resident birds may continue to use these fields after they dry and are planted. Fields with these properties should be watched in early spring. Birds may be dispersed from these areas easier as water dries up but before crops emerge.

ABATEMENT TECHNIQUES
REPELLANTS

THIRAM.
The chemical thiram is an active ingredient in several commercial pesticides which are labeled as fungicides, and animal repellants or for both uses. As animal repellants they are labeled for protecting nursery stock, shrubs, ornamentals and coniferous trees from browsing by deer, rabbits and rodents.

Mixtures containing thiram have been used for a number of years as animal repellants in the home landscape industry. Iowa Christmas tree growers have used them to reduce deer and rabbit damage. Rubbing by bucks during the rut may not be reduced as the effect of the repellant relies on the animal tasting the treatment.

Like most animal repellants on the commercial market, thiram mixtures are water-soluble. When mixed with water only, the effectiveness of the product is reduced with each succeeding rainfall. To prolong the residual effectiveness, some labels direct the applicator to add a latex-based sticker. A commercial sticker can be added to the thiram/water mixture, but latex paint works just as well. The advantage of a commercial sticker (Clearspray by Cleary Chemical Co. is an example), may be it's antidessicant nature which could be advantageous in fall plantings.

Much of the deer browsing damage in young tree plantings occurs during the winter months. The application of a repellant in fall just after leaf drop may reduce if not eliminate winter browsing. As the weather warms up in late February or early March, plantings should be checked for signs of recent browsing and resprayed if necessary. ***Note the whitish cast left by the thiram spray*** **(1H).**

PLANTSKYDD
Plantskydd **(2H)** is a 100% natural product which is available to the home gardener and landscape professional. Animals avoid treated plants before they bit, not after. It can last up to 4 months over winter on dormant shrubs and up to 3 months on most succulent broadleaf plants. It is necessary to treat any new growth. Application rates can be varied depending on deer density and consequent use.

This product uses dried pigs blood which has an offensive odor to deer, rabbits and rodents. As olfactory deterrent, it is not necessary that the animal taste the treated plant to avoid it. To some degree, the material will act as a fertilizer as it works off the plant and into the soil.