

Pests in the Garden



Rabbits - will feed on many vegetables in the garden as well as flowers like petunias and tulip blooms. They also can damage young fruit trees; therefore, you should protect the bark of the tree (to 3 feet) with wire mesh or plastic tree wraps. Chicken wire fence of 2 to 3 feet buried just a few inches will provide protection for the garden. Young plants can also be covered with Dalen Harvest Guard, a floating row cover. To repel rabbits, use Dalen's Natural Enemy Plastic Snake or Owl, Shot Gun Hot Pepper Wax, Repellex Deer & Rabbit Repellent, Shake Away, Bonide's Rabbit & Dog Repellent, Shake Away, Liquid Fence, Dried Blood or Ro-Pel Granules. Rabbits can also be trapped with the metal Havahart traps and released at least a mile away.

Moles and Voles - damage the lawn and flower beds by tunneling through the soil. Voles chew on trees and can do extensive damage to plants and your lawn. To protect bulb plantings, it is a good idea to cover the areas with chicken wire and a layer of mulch after planting. Repellents can also be used, but should be rotated to be most effective. Predator urines (bobcat or fox) and Bonide Mole & Gopher Repellent or Repellex Bulb Saver Small Animal Repellent are some of the most effective repellents.

Skunks - Because skunks are a nocturnal animal, you will rarely see them during the day. To identify if you have a skunk damaging your lawn or garden, look for tracks with five clawed toes on both front and hind legs and holes in the lawn about the size of a half dollar and only 2 inches deep. The best way to deal with skunks is to trap them with a Havahart trap. Cover the trap with a blanket and attach a string to the door so you will be able to open it from a distance later. Use fish-flavored cat food or peanut butter as bait. The best way to prevent skunks from damaging your lawn is to get rid of beetle grubs which are their main food source. Apply Milky-Spore for long-term control (lasts up to 15 years) or Beneficial Nematodes for immediate effectiveness. They can also be repelled by using Repels-All. This product works by unpleasant smell and taste.

Deer - feed all year long and will eat generally anything if they are hungry enough. The best long-term solution is to fence the deer out. Other alternatives include repelling them by using Predator Urine (Coyote), Tree Guard, Shake-Away, Liquid Fence, Deer Off or Repellex whose pellets have systemic control that lasts 2 to 3 years. You should also choose plants that deer do not prefer to eat. Ask one of our customer service staff to help you with those selections or see our list of Deer Resistant Plants available on our website or at customer service.

Squirrels - can be repelled by using Havahart Squirrel, Critter Ridder, Deer Off or Hot Pepper Wax. These products work by using smell and taste to keep these animals away from the lawn and garden, bird feeders and garbage. Bird Feeder Squirrel Baffles will help deter animals from feeding and destroying feeder.

