

Genesee

Foundation

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The Wildlife Management Group, a task force created by the Genesee Board of Directors, and working with the Genesee Architectural Review Committee (ARC), have proposed the following guidelines to assist residents in dealing with damage to landscape plantings by deer and elk. At this time, we ask you to review these guidelines and invite you to comment in writing to the task force. Send comments to the Genesee Foundation Office.

GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTING LANDSCAPE PLANTINGS FROM DEER/ELK DAMAGE

Genesee's protected environment has caused wild animals to become progressively habituated, and Genesee has essentially become a wildlife refuge. This refuge setting has caused deer and elk browsing on residential landscape plants to become what is perceived by many as a problem. Although deer and elk naturally feed on native vegetation, they are especially attracted to the more succulent nonnative vegetation commonly used for conventional landscape plantings. Residents sometimes attempt to protect landscape plantings from browsing by constructing various types of fences or barriers around the plantings. Such fences or barriers are commonly constructed of aesthetically obtrusive materials such as fence posts and chicken wire, and are thus in violation of Genesee covenants. These covenants were enacted to allow only improvements which, "...in the opinion of the Architectural Review Committee,...will contribute to and be in keeping with the character of the area," (Supplementary Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions, Section 1. (a)(5)). Thus, to help preserve the aesthetically attractive natural environment, and at the same time allow residents to protect reasonable amounts and types of landscaping, the following guidelines have been developed by the Genesee Architectural Review Committee.

1. Never feed deer and elk, which artificially attracts them and is against Colorado Law.
2. Maximize the use of native landscape vegetation in order to reduce the attraction of deer and elk to the relatively succulent nonnative plantings. The booklet, "Native Plants of Genesee" is available in the Genesee Foundation office for viewing or selected copying, and can be used as a guide for plant selection.
3. Use minimal screening around landscape vegetation. No staking or fence posts are allowed except for temporary staking during the first year after planting to stabilize young trees before their roots are formed into the soil. If standard green metal "T" posts are used for stabilization, the factory-painted white tops should be spray painted green to reduce visual impact. To protect the plantings from browsing the following guidelines can be used for selected types of plantings:

Aspen Trees: The bark and small branches on these trees are commonly used as browse material, especially during the winter. When planting aspens, select trees large enough (about 2" trunk diameter) that the lower branches are above the reach of deer and elk and the bark can be protected during the winter by wrapping the trunk with 1) brown paper wrap 2) black plastic netting (sold as "Birdblock").

Evergreen trees: Use "Birdblock" netting wrapped directly on the tree branches to prevent browsing.

Flower/vegetable gardens: Use "Birdblock" netting directly over the plants, or if the garden is near a dwelling, a dog run type fence can be constructed in accordance with the Genesee Architectural Standards, Section 5.2.2. The Standards require that an "Improvement Submittal Form" be submitted to and approved by the Architectural Review Committee and that such fences be

- a. "...designed to become part of the dwelling. As such, they must blend with the character and style of the dwelling and should integrate with the existing topography. Construction...shall match the material, color and details of the existing deck guardrails."
- b. "...Stepped vertically to follow the ground contours, where necessary," and
- c. "...located in an area that provides minimum visual...impact on neighbors."

4. Certain commercial products available from local nurseries may be used to repel animals. The following list was extracted from the April-June 2001 issue of "HorTechnology." Animal repellents should cause no aesthetic detriment to the environment or harm to the animals, and can be used as residents wish.

Commercial animal repellents tested and their active ingredients as listed on the labels (1997-99)

Product	Source	Active Ingredients
Bobbex	Bobbex Inc, Newtown, Conn.	Garlic oil and dried blood
Deer Away	IntAgra, Inc. Minneapolis, Minn.	Putrescent whole egg solids
Get Away	IntAgra, Inc. Minneapolis, Minn.	Oil of mustard, capsaicin, vegetable oil and lemon extract
Deer-Off	Deer-Off Inc. Stamford, Conn.	Putrescent whole egg solids, capsaicin, and garlic
Foggy Mountain Coyote Urine	J&C Marketing Inc., Hampden, Maine	Coyote (<i>Canis Latrans</i>) urine
Hinder	Pace International Seattle, Wash.	Ammonium soaps of higher fatty acids
Hot Pepper Wax	Hot Pepper Wax, Inc. Greenville, PA	Capsaicin and other caosaicinoids
Hot Sauce	Miller Chemical and Fertilizer Corp., Hanover, PA	Capsaicin
Ro-Pel	Burlington Scientific Corp, Hanover, PA	Benzyldiethyl ammonium saccharide and thymol
Tree Guard	NorTech Forest Technologies, St Louis Pk., Minn.	Denatonium benzoate or bitrex
XP-20	Easy Gardner, Inc. Waco, Texas	Thiram