



DEER CONTROL

Is your yard a local attraction for deer? Looking to detract deer in a safe, all natural, and cost effective way? Try one of these easy to make recipes recommended by the DNR!

Homemade Deer Repellent

- 1 gallon of warm water
- 3 raw eggs
- 3 tbs of milk or yogurt
- 3 crushed garlic cloves
- 3 tbs of cayenne pepper
- Blender
- Strainer
- Garden sprayer (or large spray bottle)

Step 1: Blend all ingredients. Put eggs, milk/yogurt, garlic, and cayenne pepper along with 2-3 cups of water in a blender and puree thoroughly. Strain the mixture into a gallon jug, add the remaining water and seal.

Step 2: "Ripen" the mixture. While the homemade deer repellent can be used immediately, it will be more potent if left to ripen at room temperature for 24 hours. Transfer to garden sprayer or spray bottle. Note: it will have a pungent smell as it ripens.

Step 3: Spray the solution. Spray plants liberally after morning dew or any rainfall has fully dried. Make sure to spray the entire plant, leaves, stems, fruits, and all. It won't harm your foliage, it will just cause it to smell and taste bad to foraging deer. Once dry, the odor will be undetectable to humans but still unpleasant to ruminants.

Step 4: Store it properly. The sticky homemade deer repellent could clog your spray dispenser, so after dosing your garden, pour any remaining mixture back into the jug for storage in the garage or a cabinet.

Step 5: Reapply as necessary. Reapply the homemade deer repellent weekly and after any rainfall. Ideally, begin spraying early in the growing season, as soon as the weather warms up in March and April. During this time, deer are establishing their feeding patterns and your plants are breaking winter dormancy. If you make your yard unappetizing to them from the get-go, they'll find more hospitable grazing ground and may steer clear of your home.

For trees or shrubs not for human consumption that are being browsed by deer, Reppellex is a product available at Home Depot and other similar establishments. Reppellex comes in tablet form that you plant in the soil and is a systemic product, meaning it is actually taken up by the roots of the plant making it taste bad. You would not want to use it on food sources as you could have an apple or fruit as hot as a chili pepper.

Red Hot Chili Pepper Spray

This recipe is courtesy of North Dakota State University horticulturist Ron Smith.

Warning: Handle the peppers very carefully—they are extremely spicy.

Ingredients:

- 4 habanero peppers
- 1/4 cup of water
- 2 tbsp of olive oil (or vegetable oil)
- 3 tablespoons of yogurt or milk (milk products contain a protein called casein that helps the mixture stick when dry)

Instructions:

1. Blend the peppers in enough water to liquefy. Start the blender at the lowest speed to avoid splashing on yourself.
2. Strain the mixture through a coffee filter or cheesecloth into a jar with a lid. Don't skip this step or the solids will clog the spray bottle.
3. Mix in the olive oil and milk/yogurt. This helps the mixture stick to the plants.
4. Add the mixture to a spray bottle, and dilute with enough water to get a 1:10 concentration (1 part mixture to 10 parts water).
5. Spray in the early morning after morning dew dries.
6. Reapply weekly and after a rainfall.