



August 14, 2014

RE: Rabbit/Critters

Dear Cherry Hill Village Resident:

Herriman & Associates, Inc. has received multiple complaints about the rabbit population in CHV. We have been asked to several times to live trap the rabbits. This was discussed with Association directors and they believe it would be too costly to live trap as it would only attract other critters to the baited traps causing more problems.

Here are suggestions of ways to deter rabbits from your yard and gardens:

Open the landscape up to reduce the areas where rabbits like to hide. Keep the grass mowed short, remove any unnecessary vegetation and clean up plant debris regularly. Trim off and discard low-hanging bottom branches on bushes and shrubs, which rabbits use for cover.

Seal holes under sheds, decks, stairs and any place else where rabbits may find shelter. Use pieces of wood or chicken wire that have spaces of 1 inch (2.5 cm) or less to reduce the chances rabbits will chew holes through your structures.

Remove or fence off all water sources so that rabbits are not attracted to them.

Plant as many rabbit-detering plants as possible. Plants known to repel rabbits include forget-me-nots, impatiens, amaryllis, bleeding hearts, foxglove, daylily, ferns, English ivy, pachysandra and others.

Add some of rabbits' least favorite trees to your landscape. Rabbits stay away from oak, pine, maple, spruce, cedar, and magnolia trees.

Fence your garden to keep the rabbits out. Chicken wire works fine as long as the mesh is 1 inch (2.5 cm) or less. Bury the fence 6 to 8 inches (15 to 20 cm) to prevent rabbits from digging under it. Extend it at least 24 inches (61 cm) above ground.

Install automatic sprinklers that are triggered by a motion sensor. If rabbits are sprayed with water every time they enter your garden, they may stay out.

Try a natural repellant. Although results vary, some home and store remedies may help deter rabbits.

1. Spread blood meal, cayenne pepper, manure or dog or human hair around plants.
2. Spray your plants with a solution of hot sauce and water or vinegar. Reapply the solution after each rain. This solution can be washed off of vegetables after harvest, and so does not affect their taste.
3. Use a foul-tasting spray deterrent that contains bitrex. You can find products that are marketed for use on ornamental plants. Do not use bitrex sprays on vegetable plants because it will affect the taste of the produce.
4. Garden Rabbit Repellent
5. Coyote Urine

Scare and Ultrasonic devices. Water scarecrows, fake snakes and owls, aluminum pie pans and ultrasonic devices are sometimes used to try to scare rabbits away from plants. Unfortunately, they can be unreliable and have limited effectiveness as rabbits do eventually get used to these devices and are no longer frightened by them.

Thank you

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