



How to keep the Larger Pests out of your Garden

By Lynn Gillespie

Every garden will get some kind of pest be it four legged, six legged, or more. The key to fighting these pests is to monitor the garden to find out what is doing the damage. After discovering the cause, look for different ways to get rid of the problem. Don't forget that most damage is done at night. A few trips to the garden in the night may reveal a few secrets. Some damage is reparable and some is not; such is the way of the garden. Always plant about 20 percent more of every vegetable in your garden. Then you can lose some vegetables and still get enough to eat.

The largest pests to enter my garden are my dogs or an occasional stray baby calf. My garden is not fenced so critters wander in. To keep the dogs off on my newly planted beds (they think that nice fluffy soil is for them to sleep on or bury a bone in), I place a left over fan cover from the greenhouse. It is four feet by four feet which covers the bed perfectly; it keeps the cat out too! A friend of mine uses a piece of hog panel. Any type of stiff fencing will work.

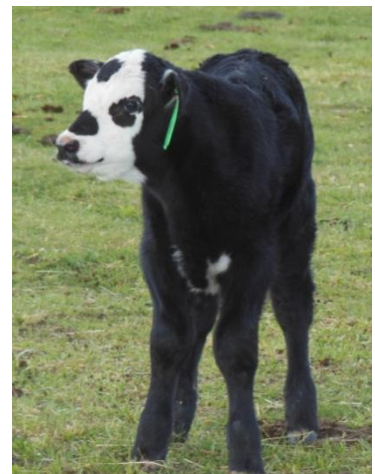
In a new bed with tall seedling where the fan cover is not high enough, I use rebar stakes. I place one every foot or so. With this type of spacing the dogs stay out of the garden because they can't get a good spot to lay down.

Cats also love gardens; there is no two ways about it. For the cats, I lay chain link fencing on top of the garden or any fencing that has holes smaller than 4 inches. This will keep the cats out. Remember to remove the fencing before the plants get to big. One year I forgot to remove the chain link fence off of the carrot patch. When I went to harvest the carrots, the tops were all intertwined in the fence material. When I lifted off the chain link fence, all the carrot tops came off with the fence material.

When the plants are bigger, I heavily mulch the garden with straw or grass clippings and the cats don't bother to mess it.

Larger Pests

Here are some home remedies for the larger destroyers of the garden. But, before I get started, I would like to stress the idea of a fence. With the proper fence you can keep just about any large critter out. Sometimes, however, a fence is not feasible or wanted so you can use the ideas below to help you rid your garden of large pests.



Deterrents for Large Pests

Deterrent	Cat	Deer	Dog	Gopher	Mole	Mouse	Rabbit	Raccoon	Skunk	Squirrel	Woodchuck
Scatter fresh or dried mint leaves						•	•				
Scatter ground red pepper					•		•	•	•		•
Scatter tobacco dust					•		•				
Caster oil spray – mix 1 Tbs caster oil and 1 Tbs soap in 1 gallon water, spray on plants				•	•						
Scatter human hair or dog hair		•		•	•						
Mothballs or camphor flakes	•	•	•			•		•	•	•	•
Scatter blood meat, bone meal or fish		•		•			•			•	
Plant garlic and onions near by							•	•	•		•
Flood tunnels and burrows				•	•						
Wrap ears of corn in aluminum foil or nylon stockings							•	•		•	•
Horizontal barrier – 3 feet barrier made of newspaper, chicken wire		•						•	•		•
Pumpkin vines around perimeter								•	•		•
Ropel Spray	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Live traps (release elsewhere)				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

With a few tips and tricks and some practice, you can learn to out fox any garden pest large or small.

Bonus bonus bonus!

How to Get the Skunk Smell Odor off Your Pets

This is not a gardening idea but is such a good one and people with gardens usually have dogs that get into trouble.

1 quart 3% hydrogen peroxide

¼ cup baking soda

1 teaspoon baby shampoo

Mix up the solution. Thoroughly wet dog and shampoo in, let sit for 5 minutes then rinse. Be sure not to get the solution in the dog's eyes. The percentage of hydrogen peroxide is not strong enough to bleach the dog's hair.

Lynn Gillespie and her family own The Living Farm, a 212 acre organic sustainable farm in Paonia, Colorado. Lynn is an organic vegetable grower and author of several gardening books. For more information and more articles and videos about gardening, cooking the harvest or preserving the harvest go to www.thelivingfarm.org