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EPISODE NAME: **Controlling Deer and Other Wildlife Around Your Flowers, Shrubs and Garden**

Today on Across the Fence keeping deer and other wildlife away from your garden. From fencing to high tech gadgets there are ways to ensure that your garden is feeding you not the animals. Good afternoon and thanks for joining us I'm Judy Simpson. During the growing season there's nothing more frustrating than wildlife getting a free lunch at your expense. Deer in particular will munch our gardens flowers and shrubs but it doesn't have to be that way. Horticulturalist Leonard Perry extension is here with tips on keeping Bambi out of your garden. Nice to have you with us.

Leonard.: It's great to be back.

Judy.: I guess the good place to start is why is there such a big deer problem?

Leonard.: There are a couple main reasons Judy. One is we have moved in on their habitat. They were there and we've built our houses there so we displace them and also displaced their predators. There are not that many predators around fox's in such coyotes in areas where we have our homes now so the deer come in and then we plant a buffet for them. Why forage in the wild when you have this beautiful spread of ornamental plants and vegetables they can snack on.

Judy.: Delicious landscaping.

Leonard.: Exactly.

Judy.: The scope of the problem is worse in some areas of the country?

Leonard.: It is I think most states seem to have the problem now but specially in the northeast. I think we were a little less of a problem here in Vermont we have a lot of woods
but if you get in rural developed areas out from New York City Philadelphia and into that area Northern New Jersey if you've driven down there like I have every few miles it seems along the interstate if you see a dead deer. They're just really abundant down there.

Judy.: There is hope for control though.

Leonard.: There are many controls there's a book deer proofing your yard and garden I've learned a lot out of and its author states even on a worse day we're smarter than deer. So the problem is you have to know how to outsmart the deer and out with them so knowing a little bit about the deer can really help with the control.

Judy.: OK?

Leonard.: There are some facts to keep in mind. The first is that deer don't like anything new there neophobic so you have to try a range of controls. Here's a chance to try a lot of fun stuff. They learned quickly so you have to rotate. Will mention that again change the types of controls and move them around because after a few days they learn that's not hurt them there OK. They're very adaptable creatures of habit. Kind of like kids you can train them early and then they hopefully won't remember some of that. Deer sense danger with their smell and hearing those are two very good senses so if you can mess with those senses then they get scared and will talk about some ways to do that. They have for eyesight and pour depth perception so again that's not one of the best senses so we can take advantage of that as will talk about with fencing in a minute. They're good jumpers of course so if you have operate fence is as people may know you might have to go 8 to 10 feet high because they can jump over lower ones but will see an exception to that they can get around that. The severity depends on the population and the food and other words if there's a lot of food they may not feed on your garden as much but if there's a lot of deer for instance they may the things they wouldn't normally eat so this will determine what kind of level of controls you need. Just like people there individuals some may like one plant like a pasta and others may not that's why some plants are deer resistant and not deer proof it depends on the deer.

Judy.: I got it. You mention controls and range of controls what are some examples?

Leonard.: I think part of it depends on what level. If you have less than five deer per square mile you can get by with some repellents. If you have 5 to 10 a little bit heavier population you may need to get some fencing some dogs and deer-scaping which will talk about. More than 10 per square mile and you may need to work as a community to work on getting rid of those.

Judy.: What are some of the repellents that would smell bad?
Leonard.: Okay some of the repellents again thinking about those senses we were talking about scent is probably one of the first ones and smelly soap is one of the most common ones. Spray products there and many out there you can make up some of your own herbal products. Herbs in general are very aromatic in a mask that sense of smell. Things that signal danger human hair blood products. There some really nasty vial smelling products made from slaughterhouse waste and things that I hate to even get near and predator urines. Some people use because I think the thing to keep in mind with these repellents deer are really focused on two things to eat and not be eaten.

Judy.: Pretty simple.

Leonard.: Pretty simple they want to eat and be safe and not being so keeping those things in mind a lot of these repellents deal with that not being eaten sense of security.

Judy.: We've touched on sight and sound and smell what about the other senses taste and touch?

Leonard.: We talked about sent and some of the ones that smell bad but getting into the sight and sound there are some others that work on that sense of danger. White flags for instance signal bobbing tail which is flight. Something like old CDs reflect the light hanging those out in the garden. Motion light all show picture of that later. Sound radio some people think talk radio is better or some sorts of music you can figure that out on your own their own deer. Pie pans again the sound of that. Some people like the sound cannons that that's a little bit overkill deer can hear a watch taking say don't need to go loud on the sounds they are deaf. When you're using a sound repellents you have to keep in mind to get one that set up for the year because a lot of them are setup for other wildlife and if they're not the right frequency that deer here they may not do any good so just make sure their setup for that.

Judy.: As far as sound is concerned does that also once the deer get used to that the change it up too?

Leonard.: Again any of these things if you're using one smell try different smell if you're using a sound not only use a different and if you can use a different control like a smell repellents and a sound repellent and then makes those up then rotate. Not only the repellents but where they're located because if they come up and you have one right near your choice plant and they learn after a few days oh that's just a bother I really want to eat that plant then we'll do that. They're very smart that way.

Judy.: Then there's the good old fashion dog.

Leonard.: There are dogs. There are a couple things speaking of dogs. Motion sprinklers you can buy if you want to keep the dogs and wildlife at your garden if they get near the
motion said sprinkle or off and you can use those from the deer as well. Dogs in particular are very interesting because they've done studies if you have a dog even a mean ferocious gnarling dog on the end of a leash and the deer learns after a few days how long that leash is they can feed on the end of that. The key is there a move that leash the next time they come up and the dogs a little closer.

Judy.: You keep changing up.

Leonard.: You keep changing up. Another interesting story they did some research on an apple orchard out in Western New York State and these researchers were watching a dog come in to the orchard or deer and dogs chase that deer will that was the decoy deer. The other gear came in behind that wall the dogs were off chasing the one way away and those deer were feeding on those apples so again deer are very smart and that's something he can mine there.

Judy.: There's a thinking process behind them all read it's your turn.

Leonard.: Exactly you be the decoy just run fast.

Judy.: If all else fails of course there's always fencing but you have to be particular about the fence.

Leonard.: There is fencing we should mention that tastes and touch the repellent. We mention the touch but again. The fencing will talk about that with the touch. Fishing line with a sprinkler we mentioned but even fishing line it can really see that them in their eyes sites bad so they touch something and say what is that they can see that. Taste that's probably the one that there so many different ones pepper sprays I've learned don't use Cayenne pepper it will plug the nozzles on your sprayer what I use is a little bit of Tabasco in the water and that's what a squirt squirrels with. One home recipe is one part hot sauce to 16 parts water and.

Judy.: Wait a second I have to go back here you squirt squirrels with Tabasco?

Leonard.: I have one of these super soaker as and when they get on the feeder I just in they've like themselves off. Some actually seemed like it because they keep coming back for more so again it just depends on the taste of the actual animal. As you mentioned we do have fencing and there's lots of types of fencing and if all else fails in the deer are very hungry there's a high population fencing may be the only choice. I actually brought some pictures along in a lot of these are courtesy of Brad roller of lower New York State. Basically you can see the deer can get very used humans. As we know they live around a lot of our homes and herbs as we mentioned is that mass dissensive when they can smell danger when they're smelling chamomile and mint and all these fragrant herbs so planting some herbs around desirable plants may be all that's needed again. I mention this portable
you can buy these units and mount them on a portable stake. Again moving them around is key. This is one I put together it's a motion light that basically is solar powered and the sensor in the middle senses when there's motion so many feet and the light comes on for a couple minutes. That's enough to scare them if it's moved I learned if you don't move it then they get used to it. That's something very effective. Here is the standard deer fencing you can buy. It's a black mesh. You really can see it from a distance and that's really good if you need fencing. It's fairly inexpensive compared to the more traditional wire fencing we've had in the past and here you see the big gate too. One of the things to keep in mind is they will find openings like here this cage is open that the reason they don't get in here you'll notice the cattle grid with wide mesh so they fall through it. If the gates open they say it Oh I can go in there and then they can't. Again they start falling through that cattle grid on the bottom. Again if you have to leave the gate open up you may have to go over and like that. Here is a slanting fence outward. Here's a case for you don't have to be 8 to 10 feet high. Gear good jumpers but they like to clear something. You can see a slanting outward towards where they are and they want to get to the end side for the right and they're figuring I may not be able to clear the whole thing when I jump. That's one of the reasons slanting fence is you can get by with maybe five or 6 feet high. Or a solid fence out of sight out of mind. But they don't know what's over on the other side. Even if they smell some good plants over there again good sense of smell they may say well I don't know there may be danger over there. Again that sense of danger kicks and so a solid fence you can get by with it a bit lower sometimes. The good old electric fence. It can be very simple a single strand likes this. Some people like to bait with some peanut butter and aluminum foil. You put it on the wire will come in for noble and get a little zap. That shows and that this is not a good place to be a. Single strand electric fence. Here is a variation one that I have you can buy the stakes it just runs off some batteries and you put a deer lure which you can buy a sport shop. That cotton on the that attracts them. They go for a sniff and then you see a little wires there a little electric gives them a zap but again that needs to be moved. They see it by a desirable plants but then they get used to that and go up to feed on the plant and don't sniff the device anymore. So that's a variation on the electric. Here's an example of a horse paddock with two fences that are about 5 feet high about 10 feet apart. This is an example again it doesn't have to be how I but the deer figure I can jump one of those but I can't clear both of them and if I get stuck on the inside I'm in trouble. Here is a variation on that these are just rings cake and the clothesline it could be blacked wire they could be that fishing line but something that's maybe 5 foot apart and only about 4-5 foot high. I have a couple of these around my vegetable areas and garden areas and figure well maybe I can get over one but not both and streamers they see hanging down there that's to let them see that there is something going on there. Remember their sight is not good so you may need a flag these wires. A planter to you can get by with some sort of fencing like this. Just make sure it's far enough away from the plants. Chicken wire poultry mesh smaller lower deer fencing for five foot is what I have. Just to make sure it's sturdy enough and far enough away from the plants. And whatever else if you are out hunting or are a hunter you can see the deer in the background watching this guy making sure you get someone who's licensed or smarter than the deer.

Judy.: You mentioned deer-scaping can you elaborate on that?

Leonard.: Deer-scaping is actually not to attract deer but things that they don't like and there are several different things that I can cover quickly about deer resistant plants as I mentioned some plants they intend to avoid. An unattractive garden entry the place they
keep coming into the garden. Put some repellents there at the normal path of entry. Protecting the perimeter of the garden with fencing or whenever. Different types of fencing. They don't like to go up and down on terraces so terracing a landscape. Hiding a choice plants by that masking the smell maybe with herbs. Using daffodils around which they don't like around choice tulips. Solid fencing as I mentioned out of sight out of mind. Removing grassy bedding. Keeping up with your harvest of vegetables and fruit and using more hard scaping instead of the plants.

Judy.: We haven't talked about woodchucks rabbits or other things that can get in your garden?

Leonard.: Woodchucks and rabbits are a couple of big problems for a lot of people. I have both of these in my own garden that I'm battling. Woodchucks things to keep in mind repellents like you would for some other animals. Some may work. Fencing poultry wire can be a lot lower a lower a lector fence to maybe 6 inches high. You can use live trapping or shooting but in some places just beware of local laws relating to those.

Judy.: Absolutely and for rabbits it's the same thing?

Leonard.: Rabbit same thing again you can get by with some low fencing on that as well.

Judy.: We usually spotlighting a web site for more information are we safe to assume you have information about all this on your site?

Leonard.: I do I have some nice articles there. It's Perrysperennials.com. You can look under the articles and find quite a few more articles about deer and more details about what we've been talking about.

Judy.: The big thing to do is to know what you're dealing with.

Leonard.: Exactly try to outsmart those deer.

Judy.: Thanks Leonard. That's our program for today I'm Judy Simpson will see you again next time on Across the Fence.

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