

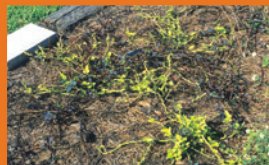
PEST: WHITE-TAILED DEER



1
White-tailed deer fawn



2
Deer feeding can cause extensive damage



3
Foliage and fruit are susceptible to damage

CROPS AFFECTED

- If hungry enough, deer will eat almost all vegetable crops.
- In general, deer avoid onions, garlic, shallots, and leeks, as well as hard-rind vegetables.
- Deer tend to avoid vegetables with spines and fuzzy leaves such as cucumber and eggplant.

HABITAT

- Highly adaptable, but prefer areas interspersed with woods and open area.
- Active 24 hours, but especially dawn to dusk.
- Deer are increasingly a problem in urban areas.

DAMAGE

- Deer damage vegetables by consuming tender growth and fruit; occasionally they will pull root crops out of the ground.
- Trampling is also a source of damage.

DESCRIPTION

- Winter season coat is greyish-tan with a thick undercoat.
- Summer season coat is reddish-tan.
- Fawns are reddish-tan with white spots.
- Males have antlers, which increase in size each year.



4
White-tailed buck

LIFECYCLE

- Deer mate in late fall.
- Females bare 1-3 fawns per litter.
- Young are born May-July.
- Deer feed heavily in the spring, summer, and fall months.

PEST: WHITE-TAILED DEER



5 White-tailed deer damage to soybeans



6 Deer feeding damage on sweet potatoes



7 Deer fencing must be at least 8 feet high to be effective

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Exclusion

- Adequate fencing is the only sure way to exclude deer.
- Fencing needs to be at least 8 feet high.
- Mesh fences can be made of either woven wire or plastic mesh.
- Single or multi-strand electric fences in combination with repellents can be effective, however, electrified fencing may be prohibited in cities and municipalities.

Repellents

- There are several commercial deer repellents labeled for use.
- Repellents work best when used before feeding occurs and when pressure is light.
- Repellents that are tasted or ingested by the deer work better than those that repel by odor only.
- Frequent reapplication may be necessary, as the label allows, especially during rainy weather.
- Home remedy repellents, such as strong-smelling soaps and human or pet hair have limited effectiveness.

Scare devices

- Scarecrows, scare balloons, and motion-activated sprinklers, when moved daily, may provide short-term protection.
- Deer quickly become accustomed to scare devices.

Habitat management

- Vegetable growing areas surrounded by woodlands have the potential to sustain more damage.
- Harvest susceptible crops as early as possible to avoid potential damage.
- Plant crops as far as possible from wooded or brushy cover.

Populations control

- Hunting can reduce deer populations, especially when targeting females. However, hunting is often prohibited within city limits. Call your local Extension office for more information on what is allowable in your area.



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