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The Basics of Vineyard Wildlife Management

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You need grapes to make money!!!!!!

“The Wine is made in the Vineyard”
“You need great grapes to make a great wine”
Benefit - Cost Analysis

Compare

• Potential loss
  (vinifera grapes @$1400/T)

against

• Control cost
  – Specific pest
Disclaimer:
References to commercial brands does not indicated endorsement by the University of Maryland Extension.
Wildlife Damage Management (WDM)

Population Management

Fencing

with careful monitoring

Vegetation Management

Repellents/Scare Tactics
Proximity to woods
GULLS
REPEL stubborn gulls from off-shore oil platforms, helipads, landfills, marinas and beaches.

PIGEONS
SCARE pesky pigeons from rooftops, open parking lots and parks.

GEASE
BANISH territorial geese and ducks from lakefronts, golf courses and corporate parks.

STARLINGS
CHASE starlings from airfields, orchards, vineyards and trees.

‘BirdX’
Wildlife Management in Vineyards

Bird Netting
Basics of Pest Management
Racoons

- “neat” but voracious feeders
Large deer herds are common
Things to Know About Using Repellents...

• **Limited life -** will fail
  – Longevity 7 to 13 weeks.

• **Work by odor, taste or both**
  – odor-based > taste-based.

• **Feeding patterns and habits**
  – apply before deer start feeding
  – Need to change repellent types annually

• **Effectiveness varies according to pressure.**
  – Success depends on availability of other foods.
    • During the winter, foods scarce, not as effective.

• **Deer will continue to be a long-term problem.**
Wildlife Management in Vineyards

Critter Blaster - Pro
Crop Damage Permits

• MD DNR Wildlife Division can issue crop damage permits to commercial growers of agricultural and tree crops.

• The biologist must see the damage to issue permits (usually for doe deer).

• The deer can be taken out of season or in season. You can give permission to others to use the permits.

• New regulations are coming to streamline the process of securing permits.
Dogs contained by buried electric fencing!
Pairs of dogs can protect 20-30 acres. Hyperactive dogs that would normally be destroyed are sources from animal shelters.
Western Maryland Research & Education Center Dog Fence Study - after 1.5 years

• 100% survival for protected trees and 0% for unprotected trees.

• Within first year dogs killed approximately 45 groundhogs, 17 raccoons and countless voles.

• Dogs did escape a few times which required a more powerful collar.
This single strand electric fence protected half an acre of soybeans to the left from deer browsing.
Electric chargers

- High voltage, low impedance
- Small computers with 45-65 pulses/min
- Duration - 0.003 per second
- AC, DC, battery, solar powered units available
- Always use AC power if possible.
Plastic fencing

- light
- low cost
- easy to install
- blends in with wooded backdrop
- will need to mend
Only sure way to physically exclude deer is a 10-12 foot fence
## Types of Deer Fencing and Cost per Linear Foot
*(cost does not include charger)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of fence</th>
<th>Labor &amp; Material cost (in dollars)</th>
<th>Material cost only (in dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-foot woven wire</td>
<td>5.50 – 8.00</td>
<td>2.50 – 4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-foot plastic mesh</td>
<td>1.50 - 2.50</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slanted 7-wire</td>
<td>2.25 - 3.25</td>
<td>2.00 - 2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertical 7-wire</td>
<td>2.00 - 2.50</td>
<td>1.00 - 2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spider fence 5-wire</td>
<td>1.00 - 1.20</td>
<td>0.50 - 0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polywire/polytape</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This presentation follows the information provided in this publication. It is available from your local Extension office for $2.
Web Resources

• [www.naturalresources.umd.edu](http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu)  
  – University of Maryland. Many online resources on wildlife management page.

• [www.wildlifedamage.unl.edu](http://www.wildlifedamage.unl.edu)  
  – USDA sponsored through Purdue Univ.

• [www.cornell.edu](http://www.cornell.edu)  
  – Cornell University
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