

Protecting the bounty of the early summer harvest: Part two

Last time we discussed ways to help keep the weeds and bugs under control in the garden. Now what to do if our hard work is threatened by plant diseases or hungry animals?

of chicken wire or hardware cloth can also be buried and cemented into the ground surrounding the garden. Now that's what I call the royal treatment! Who says you



GARDEN WORKS

by Emily Cates

can't live in a bubble? As long as the garden is inside...

Many folks have had success with electric fences, though I have found that it works only for deer - unless it's the electro-plastic netting type. This fencing is movable, can be solar-powered,

and will keep a grizzly bear out of the garden! Orchard netting is good to keep birds out of the orchard and berry patch, and can have success in the garden as well. Trapping the culprits is another option - just hope you don't get an angry skunk. Dogs are oftentimes the garden's best friend when it comes to keeping out critters, as long as they know not to leave their droppings behind.

Anyhow, if a fence or dogs are not feasible, there are a few products on the market that act as animal repellents. Hot pepper wax is used to keep away animals as well as insects. Coyote urine may deter deer, and so might man's urine. Bars of soap hung in pantyhose on a tree limb, could be the more pleasant smelling option; the more perfumed the



Deer and raccoons are two of the most common garden pests. Internet photo

more effective. Ivory and Irish Spring seem to be unpopular with deer. Replace the bar regularly or the smell will wear out.

If you're lucky enough to have a garden this year, but unlucky enough to have problems with it, I hope these suggestions prove helpful. Happy harvesting!

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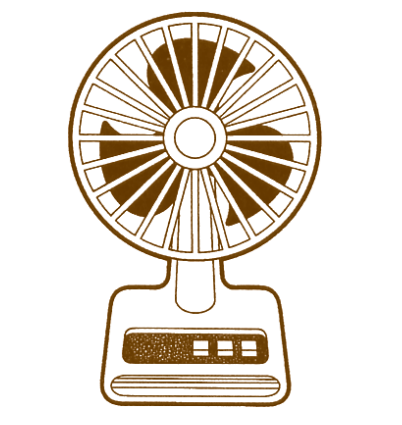
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