

Protect Your Trees

Deer aren't the only animals you need to keep away from your trees, but also rabbits, mice, and insects. There are different types of protection for your trees depending on what it is you're trying to keep away from them, as well as how much money and effort you're willing to spend. Most supplies can be found at your local hardware store or nursery.



BUD CAPPING

Price: \$

Pros: Extremely easy and cheap, good option for large scale plantings

Cons: Only protects against deer browse, animals may pull off if desperate/smart enough, mostly limited to pines



What is it?

Pieces of paper are stapled over the top bud of the tree in the fall. This prevents deer from eating the bud, allowing the tree to continue growing the next spring.

Any paper works, you can remove them in the spring or leave them be.

CHEMICAL REPELLENTS

Price: \$ - \$\$

Pros: Easy to apply or make yourself, suitable for all tree species, most protect from a wide range of animals

Cons: Require frequent applications, possible odor, some not safe near food crops, animals may ignore if desperate/smart enough

What is it?

Pre-made or homemade chemical mixtures. Numerous products are available with different ingredients, and come in different forms including tablets, powders, or sprays. Read all warnings on any chemical you use, especially if using around children or pets.



TREE TUBES

Price: \$\$

Pros: Great at keeping away small animals like rabbits and mice, may prevent cold weather injury, helps tree grow straight, prevents damage from human activities (lawn mowers)

Cons: Only protects from deer when trees are small, must be weeded and fixed if broken, not suitable for all tree species (may not fit), some types may cause trees to overheat or rot

What is it?

Pre-made tubes made from mesh or a semi-transparent material. Typically 1—5' tall and 6" wide, often come with stakes to keep them up.

WIRE FENCING

Price: \$\$\$\$

Pros: Sturdy and reusable, prevents deer browse and antler rub, suitable for all tree species, prevents damage from human activities (lawn mowers)

Cons: Only effective against small animals if gauge of holes is small (strip of hardware cloth around bottom can fix this), setup is more difficult, must be weeded and fixed if broken

What is it?

Fencing installed around individual trees or an entire area. Welded fence and rebar posts are most common, typically over 5' tall and 3' wide, though taller is better for large areas.



South St. Louis

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT