Exclusion

In most cases, fencing around your garden or crops is the best way to prevent deer damage. There are quite a few options available from a simple woven wire fence to elaborate electric fences. Here are a few ideas for consideration. Depending on the size of the area to be protected and the value of the crops in that area, you can decide which fence gives you adequate protection for the price you are willing to pay.

1) Peanut butter Fence: Deer receive shocks through nose-to-fence contact and learn to avoid fenced areas.

- Install wooden corner posts.
- String a single strand of 17-gauge wire around the corners with light tension.
- Set 4 ft. long, 3/8” round fiberglass rods along the wire at 45 ft. intervals.
- Attach wire to insulators on the rods 2 ½ ft. above ground level at 50 lbs. of tension.
- Attach 3”x4” foil strips to the wire at 3 ft. intervals, using 1”x 2” strips of cloth adhesive tape.
- Apply a 1:1 mixture of peanut butter and vegetable oil to the adhesive tape strips and fold the foil over the tape.
- Connect the wire to the positive post of a well-grounded fence charger.
- For larger fields, apply the mixture directly to the wire.
- Check the fence weekly for damage and to reapply the peanut butter as needed.

2) Polytape Fence: A variation on the peanut butter fence for larger areas.
- Drive 5/8” round fiberglass posts 2 ft. into the ground at corners.
- String two strands of polytape around the corners and apply light tension.
- Secure polytape to corner posts with half-hitches or square knots.
- Set 4 ft. long 3/8 in. round fiberglass rods along the wires at 45 ft. intervals.
- Attach the two strands of polytape to insulators on the rods at 1 and 3 ft. above ground level with 50 lbs. of tension.
- Connect the polytape to the positive post of a well-grounded fence charger.
- Apply peanut butter mixture to the polytape at 6 ft. intervals where deer are most likely to visit.
- Check weekly for damage or interference from fallen branches or other vegetation that could cause a short in the circuit.

3) High Tensile Offset or Double Fence: Frequent inspection and maintenance is required, but this fence can protect up to 40 acres when installed according to manufacturers recommendations.

For outside fence:
- Install swing corner assemblies where necessary
- String a 12 ½-gauge high-tensile wire around the outside of the swing corner assemblies and apply light tension.
- Set 5 ft. line posts along the wire at 40-60 ft. intervals.
- Attach the wire to insulators on the line posts, 15” above ground level and apply 150-250 pounds of tension.
- String a second wire at 43 in. and apply 150-250 pounds of tension.
For inside fence:
- String a wire around the inside of the swing corner assemblies and apply light tension.
- Set 5 ft. line posts along the wire at 40-60 ft. intervals.
- Attach wire insulators on the line posts 30 in. above ground level.
- Attach all wires to the positive post of a well-grounded, low-impedence fence charger.
- Clear and maintain a 6-12 ft. open area outside the fence so that deer can easily see the fence.

4) Vertical Deer Fence: Good for larger fields under moderate to high deer pressures. Wires are spaced such that deer are tempted to go through the fence and are shocked or impeded by the barrier. Deer may also try to jump the fence. If the job looks too large for you to tackle on your own, you may want to find a local contractor to take the job.

- Install rigid corner assemblies where necessary
- String 12 1/2-gauge high-tensile wire around the corner assemblies and apply light tension.
- Set 8 ft. line posts along the wire at 33 ft. intervals.
- Attach a wire to insulators at 8 inches above ground level and apply 150-250 pounds of tension.
- Attach the remaining wires to insulators at the spacing indicated in the figure and apply 150-250 pounds of tension.
- Connect the second, fourth, fifth, and seventh wires from the top, to the positive post of a well-grounded, low-impedence fence charger.
- Connect the top, third, and sixth wires directly to the ground. The top wire should be negative or lightning protection.
- Clear and maintain a 6-12 ft. open area outside the fence so that deer can see the wires.

5) Slanted Seven-Wire Deer Fence: Slanting a seven-wire electric fence may help to discourage deer from trying to jump over it.