

# NUISANCE ANIMALS: WHITETAIL DEER

Deer-another beautiful creature. But with urban sprawl their habitat of deep woods that they love so much is becoming scarce. They may become a nuisance when we find them in our yards eating from fruit trees or munching on our flower beds or gardens.

## FACTS

Estimated statewide population of deer 800,000 (Fall 1997)

## Health Concerns

Humans can catch a sickness called Lyme Disease from the deer tick.

## Eating Habits / Concerns

Whitetail deer are herbivores or plant eaters. When a deer's habitat becomes smaller because of human development, deer will often eat food from gardens and yards. They like to feed in early morning hours and late afternoons.

## Common Plants Deer Eat

- Green Plants
- Corn
- Acorns and Other Nuts
- Buds and Twigs

## Habitat

Deer prefer heavily wooded areas or swamps to live in. A deer's home range is usually less than one square mile.

## Reproduction

They mate in November, and the babies (usually 1-3) are born about six months from the date of conception.

*i "Natureworks", Natureworks Website, White-Tailed Deer.*

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## TIPS

### Tips - To Deter Deer or Rabbits

- Energized Fences - Contact the DNR for detailed information
- Natural Mixture - Mix two eggs and one cup of cold water mixed in a high-speed blender, then added to a gallon of water and sprayed on foliage. This egg mixture does not wash off easily, but reapplication two or three times a season may be needed. This mix should be used a distance from the house because it smells bad.
- Human hair or Irish Spring Soap. The typical application would be mesh bags (or cut up pantyhose) filled with human hair or slivers of soap. Or you could try scattering the hair or soap directly on the plants.
- Commercial repellents such as Deer Away and Thiram, are generally the most effective. You may have to rotate repellents as the deer become accustomed to them.
- Deer Out - This is a 100% all natural pure essential oil mixture that will last up to three months and repels the deer.
- Wireless Deer Fence - A totally new deer control method that will instantly train deer to stay out of your yard and garden.

### Optional Deer Control In Orono

Obtain a Bow Hunting Permit - Contact the City of Orono to obtain a permit.

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