



If Rabbits Dig Your Garden Too Much!

There are non-lethal methods of wild rabbit control for gardeners. Below are suggestions from gardeners over the years. Upfront disclaimer: There are no guarantees any of the methods listed below will deter cottontail rabbits.

Physical Methods:

- A sprinkler spraying for a few seconds can be connected to a motion detector to avoid wasting water.
- A 36 inch fence of small mesh wire that has openings of an inch or less with the lower edge of the fence buried a few inches in the ground. Cottontail rabbits can jump over or dig under fences. Some gardeners lay the fence flat on the ground. Remember to keep grass and weeds from growing up along the fence.
- Place plastic snakes near plants even if they are unattractive lawn ornaments!

Deterrents:

- Human hair clippings from a local barber shop are free. Spread the hair around the base of the plants and partially tuck under mulched areas.
- Irish Spring soap shavings placed in small mesh bags can be placed throughout the garden.
- Liquid Fence is a temporary deterrent.
- Soak cotton string in creosote, and attach to pegs 6 inches high around garden.
- Taste repellents painted on stems or leaves such as bitter apple or Cayenne Pepper may reduce chewing on plants.
- Plant marigolds, onions and garlic with vegetables. Plant morning glories as a barrier to the garden.

Feed Them:

- Kind of a “if you can’t beat them, join them” approach would be to plant alfalfa or clover for rabbits to eat.

Other Rabbits:

- Rabbits are territorial, if they find the droppings from other rabbits they may move to another territory.

Predator urine:

- Sprinkle a little urine soaked cat litter from the cat litter box around garden border.
- Urine from coyotes and other predators is available at feed stores and other garden outlets.

Your Own Predator:

- The scent of a predator such as a nearby cat or a dog could guard the garden.

No Draws:

- Skip bird feeders, ponds and edible flowers (roses, nasturtiums, herbs, etc.) in the garden
- Clear brush and other hiding places from property.