



ELECTRIC FENCE OPTIONS

For Deer & Wildlife Control



Since Wellscroft Fence Systems started in 1978, wildlife pressure on crops has increased tenfold in the Northeast. This may be due to urbanization and also the rise in deer population, increasing the pressure on open spaces for forage. The methods below are what Wellscroft believes are the best viable fencing options for deterring and excluding all types of wildlife.

There are many considerations that must be taken into account for every situation. Below is an outline of seven different types of anti-wildlife fence that we have used with growers and State agencies over the last 30 years. Before you get started, here are a few questions that will help you make the correct choices in fencing options:

- What type of wildlife needs to be excluded?
- Do you need both psychological and/or physical?
- Temporary or permanent?
- Seasonal?
- Rented or leased land?
- Other sources of food in the area for wildlife?
- What degree of exclusion is needed?
- Annual or perennial crop?
- Is winter a factor?
- Does it need to look nice?

You will notice there are both electric (psychological) and non-electric (physical) wildlife fences. Keep in mind that electric fences require more maintenance but have portability and economic advantages. The non-electric fence must be very strong as there is no deterrent to keep the critters from making their way through the fence.

Wellscroft has hundreds of these fence systems working in the Northeast and can supply you with names of growers in your area who have similar circumstances.

1) 1-3 Tapes or Ropes at 20", 40" and 60"

- Good only for annual vegetables and flowers. (April-October in moist soil conditions.)
- Easily taken down and moved for crop rotation, rented land or non-use in winter. The 1/2" tape is easier to move; rope should be used in more semi-permanent situations.
- Good for rented land
- Needs to be faithfully baited (aluminum foil pouch w/peanut butter inside or scent caps with apple scent)
- Note: lower wires may be added at 5" and 10" for raccoons, woodchucks, etc.
- Least expensive – quickly erected on 1/2" fiber rods, T-posts corners and ends
- Longevity: 5-10 years



Above: The 60" height of this electric Deer VersaNet discourages deer from this CSA field while the tight horizontal spacing at the bottom prevents intrusion from other smaller critters.



Above: Two strands of 1/2" tape keep deer at bay at Linden Tree Farm in Lincoln, MA.



Above: This small fruit orchard effectively keeps deer out with this 60" 3D tape fence.

2) 1-2 Tapes or Ropes in Conjunction with 3-4 Maxi-Shock Galvanized Cables

- Good for both annuals or perennials (not too effective in the winter, unless polarity is switched)
- Needs to be baited (aluminum foil pouch with peanut butter inside or scent caps with apple scent)
- May be removed with more work than option #1
- More conductive in situations of heavier vegetation
- Longevity: 5 - 10 years, 25+ for MaxiShock

3) Three Dimensional Tape or Rope Fence

- Two fences 3' apart; one conductor at 30" on outside, two to three at 20" and 40- 60" on inside
- Very effective but uses more wire, posts, land and is more difficult to maintain. Deer have a hard time jumping through this double fence.
- To be used when option #1 starts to fail due to increased deer pressure
- Needs to be faithfully baited
- Longevity: 5-10 years on conductors



Above: A 4' 2x4 Woven Wire fence with one high-tensile electric offset at the top protects this residential fruit orchard and flower garden.

4) Electric Netting

- Easy to install and remove; comes complete with posts every 6'-12'. Available in various lengths, 50', 82', 100', 164'; 30", 42", 48", or 68" heights. Comes in white/black, or dark green.
- Good for scenic, small areas such as community gardens and homeowner gardens
- Vegetation needs to be maintained under the net
- Very easily moved
- Works well for woodchucks, raccoons, rabbits, pets and deer
- Not recommended for winter use
- Must be faithfully baited
- Longevity: 10 years

Note: Wellscoft offers FREE PROJECT COST ESTIMATES of your deer fence. Please send a map of your layout and we can provide you with an estimate.



Above: This 8-wire, high-tensile electric fence keeps deer from damaging the vines, leaves, and fruit at Walpole Mountain View Winery.

5) Vertical High-Tensile Electric Fence, 8-wire 6' high

- Permanent, not easily moved
- Good for low to medium deer pressure
- May be set up bipolar for winter or dry summer conditions
- Requires braced corners and ends
- Requires a visibility lane on the outside (6'-10')
- Should be faithfully baited
- Cost effective in larger areas with straight runs, few gates
- Longevity: 20 - 30 years

6) Electrified Offset Wires for Tenax-Type Plastic or Smart Net Anti-Deer Mesh

- Least visible for residential plantings and landscaping
- Easily installed; must be baited
- Less effective in winter
- May be subject to damage from ice and heavy snow
- Longevity: mesh - 10 years

7) 2x4 Woven Wire, 4-6' High with 1 Electric Top Wire and 1 Electric Offset 12" Up

- Very effective for small and large wildlife
- Low maintenance
- Year round protection
- Longevity: 25 years



Above: This 2D fence, comprised of 3 strands of 1/2" tape supported by 1/2" fiber rods, protects Marini Farm from a large deer population.

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