



Pests and Diseases – Extended Learning

Protection from animal damage in a working garden

Gardeners spend a lot of time in their gardens creating an environment where plants and vegetables can grow and live alongside wildlife, and where time can be spent relaxing and spending time outside.

It is very important to nature and the environment that we accommodate the wildlife and encourage beneficial animals such as hedgehogs into our gardens and build habitats where beneficial insects can live, multiply and carry out their daily work.

However, there are some animals that can destroy flower beds, dig up grass and eat vegetable crops. So, it is important to put in measures to protect as much as we can, a garden space from some wildlife species that can cause significant damage.

Netting, cages, fences can be put in place to protect vegetable plots and plant beds from larger animals such as deer and rabbits.

To protect a garden space against Deer damage

Fruit and vegetable cages can be erected.

Grow plants which deer are attracted to nearer your house.

Landscape different levels within your garden.

Protection collars can be placed around the trunk of young trees to stop damage caused by male deer's rubbing up against them.

To protect a garden space against Rabbit damage

A barrier fence can be installed which is partially buried into the ground, around 6 to 12 inches deep to deter rabbits from burrowing under it to get to the food source.

Protection collars can be placed around the trunk of young trees to stop rabbits gnawing at them.

Having domestic animals such as a dog present in a garden space, can also be a preventative measure to deter rabbits from entering the area.



To protect a garden space and lawn against damage from Moles,

Mole repelling plants can be planted.

Moles have a dislike for domestic pet waste so this can be strategically placed near the entrance and exit to and from the mole's tunnels.

Moles are very sensitive to noise so by placing a natural noisemaker, such as a windchime, around where the mole is active may annoy it enough for it vacate the area.

To protect a garden space against damage from Pigeons

Wire netting and cages can be put over the areas pigeons are likely to attack as they peck at the leaves, leaving just stalks. These attacks commonly happen first thing in the morning when they are less likely to be discovered and the pigeons will often feed in flocks.

Bird scarers are available, these make loud noises at intervals, scaring away the pigeons. CDs can also be hung around the plot or bed and the light which reflects off the mirrored surface of the CD scares off the pigeons.

To protect a garden space against damage from Aphids, Whiteflies, Carrot Fly and Scale Insects

A useful and beneficial method of reducing insect damage is by placing a physical barrier between the plant and insect, such as a fabric which can rest on hoops or rests on the top of plants.

Inter planting can also help assist the fight against insect attacks and damage. Plants which deter insects can be planted amongst the plants they do enjoy feeding on. This may keep them away allowing plants to grow healthily.

It is important that when planning a garden space or an allotment, consideration is taken into account of the beneficial animals that may visit a garden and those who seek to destroy it and putting physical protection in place to encourage and deter those who wish to visit.



Worksheet - Animal Damage Quiz

1. Why should we encourage beneficial animals into a garden space?
2. Name 2 animals that could visit a garden to cause damage by eating and destroying plants.
3. What measures could be put in place to deter an animal from causing such damage?
4. Why would a barrier fence need to be buried into the ground to a depth up to 12 inches?
5. What 2 things can be put in place to reduce insect damage?
6. Why is it important to take into consideration the wildlife that visits a garden space?

Wordsearch Animal Damage

D	E	E	R	T	W	O	Z	L	R
P	A	Q	N	A	G	F	C	F	Z
R	B	M	U	D	I	O	L	K	T
E	P	O	A	Z	E	Y	X	B	S
V	L	L	K	G	P	A	D	E	O
E	A	E	A	N	E	T	W	F	L
N	C	C	T	I	Z	C	O	N	T
T	I	K	G	T	A	E	G	P	I
I	S	M	D	T	W	S	K	D	B
O	Y	B	I	E	U	N	P	G	B
N	H	A	L	N	D	I	H	P	A
X	P	R	E	I	R	R	A	B	R

Damage	Barrier	Insect	Prevention
Mole	Deer	Fly	Cage
Rabbit	Netting	Physical	Aphid