Deer in Azle: Pleasing Sight or Painful Problem?

The growth of our community has not caused a decline in the deer population. As wildlife natural habitats are gobbled up by development, deer are discovering benefits. Deer are now finding alternate sources of food in gardens, shrubs, bird feeders, and other items that provide a source of sustenance. Areas featuring a patch of undeveloped tree-filled tracts that are broken up by parks, golf courses, and other open grassy areas provide ample areas for bedding, fawn-rearing and other aspects of the natural deer routine.

The general public views deer differently depending on a variety of factors. Some believe we should adapt and live peacefully together. For others, deer quickly lose their “cuteness” factor when they begin feeding on their gardens, shrubs, trees and other vegetation found around homes.

Part of the growth of deer populations in communities is due to the absence of predators and hunting. Predators that prey on deer in rural settings are either non-existent or in small enough numbers they hardly have any impact on deer numbers. In addition, as city boundaries engulf deer habitat areas, city ordinances create a safe zone for whitetail populations to grow.

TCMGA

The Tarrant County Master Gardeners Association (tarrantmg.org) (817-884-1944) is working with the City of Azle Parks Department to develop an additional list of recommended flowers, plants, and trees for Azle home owners.

Please contact TCMGA for more information.

Animal Control

During Hours: (817) 444-8215
After Hours: (817) 444-3221

Additional Information

www.tpwd.texas.gov
https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/publications/repellents.html
https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/

White-tailed deer are an important natural resource and a part of Texas natural heritage.

However, they are currently considered more of a nuisance in some parts of their range.

Thoughtful, proactive management of overabundant deer in urban and suburban settings can help ensure that white-tailed deer are always viewed in a positive light.
Problems Associated with Deer Abundance

- Automobile accidents from deer collisions or drivers trying to avoid deer.
- Severe damage to landscaping.
- Aggressive buck (male) deer that are unafraid of people during the breeding season (fall and winter).
- White-tailed deer are a host for the black-leg tick which causes an increased possibility of tick disease transmission between deer and humans.
- Deer feeding, which increases the number of deer in the neighborhood and further aggravates all overabundant deer concerns.

Who is in Charge of Managing the Deer in Azle?

The responsibility for management of deer in our community is everyone’s; residents, city officials/staff, and citizen organizations such as home owners associations.

Deer Resistant Plants

Keep in mind that the first rule in deer-proofing is that there are really no completely deer-proof plants. Here is a list of plants that deer rarely or seldom severely damage:

Small Trees/ Large Shrubs
- Anacacho Orchid Tree, Mexican Buckeye, Red Buckeye, Carolina Buckthorn, Desert Willow, Eve’s Necklace, Possumhaw Holly, Yaupon Holly, Hop Tree, Texas Mountain Laurel, Mexican Olive, Texas Persimmon, Pindo Palm, Jelly Palm, Windmill Palm, Mexican Redbud, Retama, Mexican Silktassel, Evergreen Sumac, Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum, Sandankwa Viburnum, Wax Myrtle, as well as others...

Annual/Perennial Flowers
- Agertum, Aloe, Sunflower, Bergonia, Blackeyed Susan, Blackfoot Daisy, Blue Bonnet, Cedar Sage, Columbine, Cosmos, Dusty Miller, Flame Acanthus, Four O’Clocks, Indian Blanket, Iris, Lemon Mint, Mealy Blue Sage, Maximillian Sunflower, Mexican Blue Sage, Milkweeds, Mountain Pink, Nightshades, Purple Coneflower, Society Garlic, Texas Aster, Texas Sage, Yarrow, Zinnia, as well as others...

Deer-Proof Your Yard

Having problems with deer eating in your yard? Here are some tips to deer-proof your yard:

- Use plants and shrubs as taste-based repellents. Deer rely heavily on their sense of smell. If something smells unappealing to them, they will avoid it. Just as humans develop a preference for what we like to eat, deer develop preferences for plants and trees that taste good to them. Some deer-repelling plants with strong aromas include lavender, catmint, garlic or chives. If you can make your yard unappealing to a deer’s sense of smell and taste, it will likely go elsewhere for food.

- Use a motion detector sprinkler. A combination of spray, motion and noise not only acts as a deterrent to scare off animals, but also conditions them to stay away from the enforced area.

- Apply proven deer repellents. Deer repellent products are effective in obstructing a deer’s sense of smell and taste.

- Having a dog as a pet is extremely effective in deer management. No matter their size, their scent and bark are natural deer repellents so make sure the dog tags along while you’re gardening or the kids are playing in the yard.