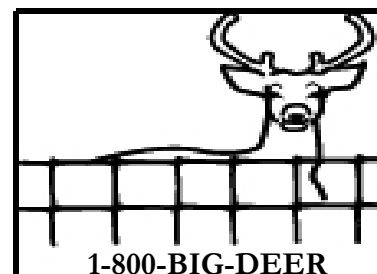


WE ARE ON THE WEB!!!

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Phone: 1-800-753-4660



Quarterly Newsletter

Benner's Gardens

Keeping Deer Out Without Changing Your View

Caution...Deer!



As deer populations flourish, deer-vehicle collisions are occurring much more frequently.

The current trends in the rise of traveling distances, and the swift recurring development of rural areas also factor into the large collision percentages as well. Not only do both trends create high traffic volume situations, but they also disrupt original deer habitats. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation found that deer are currently the third most commonly struck object by motor vehicles; the first of which is a collision with another car and the second being the collision with a fixed object. According to reports from various insurance agencies, an estimated 1.5 million vehicles collide with deer every year. Many times these crashes result in approximately 150 deaths of motorists yearly and over 1.1 billion dollars in vehicle damage. Based on insurance agency collision reports, these numbers have risen by about 6% within the past four years and they are expected to continue to rise unless steps are taken toward preventative measures.



Lyme Disease



The first record of the symptoms of this unique condition was discovered in Breslau, Germany in 1883, by physician Alfred Buchwald. The disease, however, was not officially diagnosed until almost a century later in Lyme, Connecticut, U.S.A. where an unusual amount of townspeople with "arthritis" intrigued the interest of physicians.

Lyme disease is a bacterial disease caused by the bacterium *Borrelia Burgdorferi*. Usually found in small animals such as mice, squirrels and other rodents, the bacterium is transmitted to other animals and to humans through the bite of certain species of ticks. In the United States, the *Western Blacklegged Tick* (also known as the deer tick, *Ixodes Pacifucus*) is the main transmitter of Lyme disease. These ticks have a life span of approximately two years and have three feeding stages: larvae, nymph and adult. Larvae and nymphs require blood to proceed to the next stage of development, and adult females need blood to lay their eggs. At each of these stages,

the tick seeks an animal host for a single blood meal and then, when this is accomplished, it drops off the host. When a young tick feeds on an infected animal, the tick takes the bacterium into its body along with the blood meal. The bacterium then thrives in the gut of the tick. If the tick feeds again, it can transmit the bacterium to a new host; usually a small rodent or human. Deer are one of the top transporters of ticks, yet the bacterium cannot exist on them and the host deer never becomes infected. Deer provide a suitable place for the ticks to mate and produce eggs and, through this, they play a crucial role in the growth of the tick population. Studies prove, however, that there is no direct correlation between deer and Lyme disease itself. Deer are merely the means of transportation. To reduce the spread of ticks, keep lawns mowed, brush trimmed, and leaf litter away from the home. A barrier or fence is also a constructive way to keep the deer and the ticks from running rampant.

Benner's Special



Coupon

*Buy one Small Garden Enclosure
Get an Access Gate 20% OFF!*

**Present this coupon or mention that you saw it in the
Benner's Summer Newsletter at the time of purchase.**

Coupon valid through October 31st, 2008

The Timelessness of Fence...

Top Ten States with the highest rating of Deer/Vehicle Collisions

1. Pennsylvania
2. Michigan
3. Illinois
4. Ohio
5. Georgia
6. Minnesota
7. Virginia
8. Texas
9. Indiana
10. South Carolina

The idea of fencing is, in itself, timeless. Throughout history, a variety of fences have come into existence and evolved with the demands society and the influences of technology. For centuries, it has been effectively used to control animal movements.

In ancient times, shepherds used fences to protect their sheep or to mark personal property. The Australians created

"vermin" fences which have been used to reduce crop damage for nearly 150 years. South African cultures, with the same idea in mind, have been known to construct barriers around their crops out of rows of sharpened spears or have resorted to digging holes in the ground around their cultivation. In the 1930's, American wildlife managers used fences to minimize the spread of disease among both wildlife population and people. Even today, fences remain

one of the most useful preventive solutions for animal control and crop damage.

In recent years, the construction of fences along highways has become extremely useful in preventing animals (especially deer) from venturing into traffic. Fences are statistically proven to not only reduce the amount of deer in a specific area, but also to be a strong defining factor in reducing the number of deer/vehicle-related accidents.

Deer Fact!

In the early days of the American Frontier the skin of a male deer was worth a dollar--which is how we got the term "buck" for a \$1 bill

A day in the life of a deer...Summer!

For deer, summer is regarded as the lazy season. Fawns are growing and learning from their mothers; life is peaceful and lazy. Mainly through the use of scent, the deer population begins to discover and enjoy the world around them. The testosterone level of the buck is low, so males are not very active. They spend the majority of the summer learning about the other bucks in their herd, establishing hierarchy, and storing fat for winter. The eating habits of deer vary with the seasons as well. In the spring and early summer when grass and wildflowers are lush, deer tend to be aggressive in their food consump-

tion habits. As the heart of the summer approaches and with it a plethora of growing fruits, vegetables and foliage, deer have a buffet of food to choose from and thus adapt grazer-like eating habits. These habits prove to be much more destructive because the deer nibble at many different types of plants and flowers. Each day, an average-sized adult white-tailed deer devours up to fifteen pounds of leaves, shoots, stems, buds and blossoms. The garden harvests of summertime are an important addition to the deer diet as they begin to store up fat for the impending threat of colder weather. It is helpful to keep in mind that if

your gardens are situated in areas that are surrounded by brush, forests or fields, the deer population will be much greater because they do not have to stray far from cover for food. Each summer, farmers continue to suffer from various degrees of deer crop damage and they look for new ways to fix this problem. Repellents and sprays are a useful short-term solution, but the only long-term remedy is to install a deer fence. The good news is that deer are creatures of habit and once you deter them from your garden they will stay out of it permanently.



DEER FENCERS
Professional Installation

Tips From the Pro!

How do you make the fence look it's best?

1. Take the time to get the posts in as straight and plumb as possible. Use the digging bar or a stout piece of Re-bar (reinforcing rod) to create a pilot hole before you begin to drive your sleeve. This makes the driving easier and allows you to make sure that you will not hit a surprise rock half-way down.
2. Always attach the fence mesh in a progressive manner. Work from one post or tree to the next. Never jump ahead to the end of a run and then attach to the intermediate posts or trees. This is the quickest way to create unwanted bulges or wrinkles in your fence. When attaching the fence to the support, always work from the top to the bottom, smoothing the mesh down as you go.
3. Always position a support where the fence will make a grade or slope change. Position a post at the top of the highest or lowest point when dealing with rises or dips. This maintains the full height of the fence and makes the mesh hang better.

If you have any questions or concerns about Benner's Fencing Systems, feel free to contact us anytime!

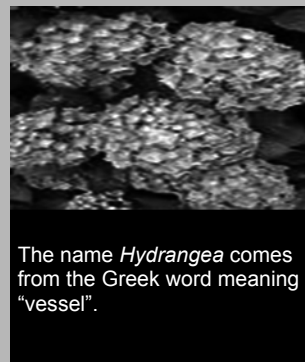
Fresh From the Garden

Deer Candy #2: Hydrangeas

There are a variety of plants and shrubs that are considered "candy" to deer. Don't be deceived by the innocent appearance of deer, they will do whatever it takes to add these specific plants to their diet!

Hydrangeas, with their abundant leafy foliage and their large, cone-shaped blossoms, provide an excellent meal for deer. Although deer seem to prefer the blooms, they have been known to eat the greens down as well. Especially toward the end of summer which is a crucial time for deer because they must add body fat for the winter and also provide energy for the rigorous mating activity that goes on during the fall months, hydrangeas become a welcome feast. First introduced by Sir Joseph Banks in 1739 from a Chinese garden, Hydrangeas are originally na-

tive to southern and eastern Asia. A member of the Hydrangeacea family and of the genus of 70-75 flowering plants, Hydrangeas usually assume the form of a shrub, but they also can be structured in the shape of a small tree or lianas (woody climber). Hydrangeas are one of the few plants that can accumulate aluminum, which is usually released by acidic soils. This aluminum compounds inside of the plant thus resulting in the variances of color in hydrangea blossoms.



The name *Hydrangea* comes from the Greek word meaning "vessel".

Dog Dish
www.bestfriendfence.com

Ask Joan!!!

Renown author Tracie Hotchner loves her Benner's Best Friend Fence

Tracie Hotchner, famous author of "The Dog Bible: Everything Your Dog Wants You to Know" and "The Cat Bible: Everything Your Cat Expects You to Know", loves her Best Friend Fence! The author and radio talk show host of DOG TALK for NPR station WLIU, is not only an avid dog lover, but is also the proud owner of two adopted Weiners, Scooby Doo and Teddy, and a Border Collie mix called Jazzy. All three of these dogs displayed a highly energetic temperament and when Tracie moved to the wooded 12 and 3/4 acre property in Bennington, Vermont the dogs went crazy over the amount of deer in the area. The insatiable appetites of the deer also made the task of maintaining any sort of garden impossible. She needed a fence that would not only

keep the dogs in, but would also keep the deer out. She researched her options carefully and realized that she did not have the funds to spend on a heavy chain link fence and she did not like the look of it either. She also did not be-



lieve in the use of electric shock fencing, so she began to search for alternative options. Although Tracie does not boast the privilege of currently being a cat owner because her "dogs made their lives miserable", she originally discovered the Benner's Fencing Systems at a veterinary conference through advertisements of our friends at Purr...fect

Fence Cat Fence. Excited by the fact that this fence might actually be the solution to her fencing problems, she quickly called Benners Gardens and requested a brochure. Not long after, she purchased the Best Friend Dog Fence and began the installation process. Initially she was wary that the fence would be difficult to install on her wooded, mountainous property. As soon as she began to put it up, however, she was pleasantly surprised by the fact that she could easily install the fence without assistance. It also conformed wonderfully to the constantly changing terrain without any hassle. She even used the trees on her property as posts for the fence, which added to the aesthetic beauty. Tracie loves it, and the neighbors love it! They were shocked by the fact that even when they were within 10 feet of the fence, they could not even see it. The dogs can now safely play and the gardens can

Call and ask Joan, our *Best Friend* expert, about how to keep your dog safely fenced on your property! She'll be more than happy to assist you!!

joan@bestfriendfence.com
or call
1-800- 753-4880

flourish without the destructive appetites of deer getting in the way. Tracie has had Benner's Best Friend Fence for almost a year now and her excitement about the product continues to grow. As she puts it, the fence is "quickly and easily installed" and gets "The Dog Bible' Paws of Approval. It's great!"

For more information on Tracie's books or to listen to her radio show, visit her website at www.traciehotchner.com

The Talk Around Town



Joan Camilli, our *Best Friend Fence* expert shares some doggie insight...

Dogs. To the people who love them this word can bring an instant smile. I know it may be trite and I am sure that you have heard it before, but dog spelled backwards is God! I don't feel as if that is an accident. When you think of all of the wonderful dogs that fill people's lives with joy and companionship, it makes sense that their very name conjures up a positive force in the world. From my own experience with our dog-loving customers every day and from the three fantastic four-legged friends that have been in my own life, I realize that

they fill a need in our lives and homes that is unequalled by anything else. Honestly, who doesn't enjoy the doggie kisses and the loving looks that we get from our adoring pets just by being ourselves? Lately I have been watching some new animal related programs on TV and they have really emphasized the idea that it is important in the training and development of a dog for them to have a specific task to perform; a sort of "job", if you will. One expert actually puts a backpack on the backs of the dogs that he is training loaded down with filled water bottles when he walks the dogs. Using this tool gives the dogs a sense of purpose and

keeps them mentally focused. The added weight also tires the dogs more quickly so that he will be more likely to want to rest when the walk is over, instead of maybe getting into mischief. Three things that are important to stress with a dog are **exercise, training, and affection**. In this sequential order this makes complete sense. Once the dog is tired out from the exercise, he or she will be more likely to respond to his owner's training. The affection is the reward that he or she gets by being obedient. In addition, keep in mind that with dogs repetition is important and consistency is a must!