

Deterring Deer in Georgetown: the Problem

The deer population is high in Georgetown. With warmer winters, the number of deer on our island is likely to continue to grow. The increasing deer population overeats plants in Georgetown's forests and gardens, and hosts higher populations of disease-carrying ticks.

Deer and Plants

In gardens, deer indiscriminately eat flowers, shrubs, and vegetables. In forests, deer eat ground plants and strip tree bark. This changes the ecology of our woodlands, threatening the continued existence of endangered species like lady slippers, and leaving space for invasive plants like Japanese barberry to become established.

Deer and Ticks

Lyme disease, a tick-borne illness, increased 500% between 2004 and 2013 in Maine, and is wide-spread in Georgetown. Deer are hosts to the ticks that carry Lyme disease and other serious tick-borne illnesses. Higher deer populations further increase the risk to humans of tick-borne diseases.

Deterring Deer in Georgetown: Steps You Can Take

- Grow deer-resistant plants (*see links below*).
- Don't feed deer; this accustoms them to human food.
- Use fences and/or natural deer repellents (*see links below*) to protect your gardens.

Additional Information

Information about deer-resistant plants:

- http://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/yardscaping/plants/swcdplants/deer_resistant_plants.pdf
- <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/deerresistance/>
- <http://www.ecolandscaping.org/02/native-plants/native-shrubs-for-the-increasingly-challenging-landscape-environment/>

Recommendations for deer repellants and deer deterrents:

- <https://extension.umaine.edu/gardening/blog/2010/05/04/maine-home-garden-news-2/>
- <http://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/deer-repellant-zboz1208zmat.aspx>

Other information:

- Georgetown's Maine State Game Warden:
Doug Kulis: 207-371-2228
- Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife:
http://maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/human/lww_information/deer.html