

GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTING LANDSCAPE PLANTINGS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

Minimizing the disruption of the existing natural environment through thoughtful and sensitive landscaping design is one of the fundamental values upon which Genesee was founded. The ARC understands that living in harmony with the environment and the wildlife can present challenges. We strive to preserve and protect native ecosystems and habitats and to allow residents to protect reasonable amounts and types of landscaping from wildlife browsing. To that end, we have developed the following guidelines for selected types of plantings.

GENERAL RECOMENDATIONS

Tree protection should only be used on new and young plant material. It is meant to be temporary and once vegetation reaches a mature stage, protection should be removed.

Consider planting trees and shrubs that do not offer deer and elk good browsing material. Aspens, oak brush (aka gambel oak), and mountain shrub provide optimal forage, are the most productive habitat for deer and elk and, as such, should be avoided when possible.

Every attempt should be made to conserve native vegetative resources, and to maximize the use of native landscape vegetation, including trees, shrubs, and grasses.

For native plants lists and information:

<https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/native/FrontRange.pdf>

For information about native trees, shrubs and grasses:

<https://www.uncovercolorado.com/native-colorado-landscaping-plants/>

For information about Firewise plant material:

<https://www.rotarywildfireready.com/fire-resistant-landscaping.html>

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/natural-resources/firewise-plant-materials-6-305/>

DECIDUOUS TREES (aspens, hawthorns, gambel oak, narrowleaf cottonwood for example)

The bark and small branches of deciduous trees are elk and deer browse material, especially during the winter. While there is no proven way to totally protect these trees, the following methods are recommended:

TREE TRUNK WRAPPING

The color of the tree guard, paper wrap, or tree wrap should blend with the environment. Tan, brown, green, and black are acceptable. White is not acceptable.

All types of protectors and wrap should be removed and re-installed regularly to prevent insect damage and to ensure that it is not binding or restraining appropriate tree growth.

White plastic, chicken wire, and corrugated black piping are unacceptable. In addition to being highly visible, they promote insect and fungus infestations because they do not allow air to circulate around the trunks.



Paper wrap and tree wrap tape can also be used to closely wrap individual tree trunks to protect them from bark removal by deer and elk. It is not necessary to wrap the tree if a tree guard is being used.

Commercially available tree guards protect trees from wildlife damage done to the bark from antlers and gnawing. The guards can be wrapped around nearly any size of tree, cut to different heights, and expanded as the tree grows.



PROTECTING YOUNG TREES

Note: Temporary fences are not intended to exist in perpetuity. It is expected that they will be removed when trees have reached maturity generally when the tree reaches a height where lowest branches are taller than the height of an elk – approximately 6' tall

FENCING CORRALS

Corral fencing should provide minimal visual obstruction

Corrals may be erected around individual trees and also to protect groupings of trees.

The corral area for a grouping should be as small as practical to protect trees but should not exceed twenty-five square feet. Once the lower branches are above the reach of deer or elk, the trunks can be individually wrapped.

The perimeter of the grouping corral area should be no more than 12-18" away from the dripline (furthest outside branching structure).

Minimizing the interior area of the corral makes it less appealing to elk and may allow fencing to be effective at a lower height.

Corrals can be up to six feet tall except where slope or other site-specific considerations require a different height. Fencing on hills should be stepped to limit the maximum height as much as possible while remaining effective.

Fencing materials of a dark color are least visible. Wire fasteners and ties that match the color of the mesh should be used to connect the mesh to the supporting poles.

I Poles may be round or square, metal or wood. Three-inch round or 3x3 inch square poles are sufficient for most fencing.

Space three to four posts evenly around the perimeter of the tree, approximately 8"-12" from the dripline (furthest outside branching structure).

Wood poles should be dark stained or naturally aged. Metal poles should be black, brown or dark bronze. If standard green metal "T" posts are used, the factory-painted white tops shall be painted the same green color to reduce visual impact.

Poles should be installed vertically, regardless of topography or slope of the land. Posts shall be installed plumb and hogwire shall be installed aligned with plumb posts.

Crooked posts and racked hogwire are not acceptable

Wrap 4' high hogwire (welded wire fencing with 2"x3" square openings) around the outside of the posts. Attach the hogwire to the posts using fence staples (wood poles) or wire fence ties (steel T-posts).



Corrals should be maintained to minimize sagging and deflection of the mesh.

Homeowner is expected to replace broken or mis-aligned posts and hogwire for the life of the temporary fence. Sloppy, broken, or poorly maintained tree protection fencing is an eyesore and will not be allowed.

Note:

Posts set in concrete are not considered temporary and must not be used.

An excessive number of posts is unnecessary and shall not be approved.

Chicken wire is not acceptable fencing material.

Chain link fencing is not acceptable fencing material

Wire strung between posts is not an acceptable corral material.

Barbed wire creates dangers for wildlife and residents and is unacceptable.

EVERGREEN and CONIFER TREES

All conifers and evergreens are discouraged due to fire danger in our region. No new conifers or evergreens will be approved within 30 feet of a structure. Individual conifer and evergreen trees will be considered beyond 30 feet, on a case-by-case basis, and must be located at least 10' crown-to-crown away from one another.

New plantings can be protected temporarily with corrals as described earlier in this document.

PROTECTING SHRUBS

Shrubs are more likely to survive if protected from random browsing in their first few years.

If browsing deer are causing damage to shrubs, individual shrubs can be wrapped with burlap, layered plastic or inexpensive snow fencing.

Larger shrubs can be protected using fencing corrals. (See Temporary Fencing for Individual Trees for specifics).

Hardware cloth is wire mesh that consists of either woven or welded wires in a square or rectangular grid. Hardware wire cloth mesh is available in galvanized steel, stainless steel and bare steel.

PROTECTING FLOWERS AND VEGETABLE GARDENS

Note: Although netting is a good approach to protecting gardens and flowers, depending on the size of the openings in the netting, hummingbirds and butterflies will likely be excluded from these gardens. In addition, deer can easily break lightweight netting with their hooves to get to desirable plants and songbirds can get entangled in excess netting.

Stronger netting material is commercially available from bird-control outlets and companies selling polypropylene deer fencing.

Netting can be draped over individual plants. When draped over plants, any netting will need continual rearranging to protect new growth

Bird block netting in a black or brown color can be placed directly over plants. White netting is not acceptable.

Short (18" max.) wooden stakes may be used to create a small, temporary corral around groupings of plants. The number and height of stakes should be kept to a minimum.

Netting must be regularly inspected and maintained to ensure a neat and clean appearance. Tangled, torn, or loose netting is not acceptable.



ARC REQUIREMENTS

New tree(s) deciduous	ARC Landscaping Form Required
New tree(s) conifer/evergreen* *discouraged within 100' of structure	ARC Landscaping Form Required
New shrub(s)	ARC Landscaping Form Required
Raised Garden Beds (not portable)	ARC Landscaping Form Required
Netting Support Structures	ARC Landscaping Form Required
Permanent Landscaping Fencing* *discouraged	ARC Fence Form Required
Temporary Fencing, Corral Fencing	ARC Approval Not Required
Tree Wrapping, Birdblock Netting	ARC Approval Not Required

