

# HEALTHY LANDSCAPE PROBLEM SOLVER



## RABBITS *in the* GARDEN

Rabbits will eat a wide variety of plants, not just salad crops. They may also gnaw at the base of trees and shrubs causing severe damage throughout the year.



**READ THE LABEL BEFORE BUYING ANY PESTICIDE.** Re-read the label before using, storing or disposing of the pesticide — the label is the law. Following label instructions will help reduce risks to human health and the environment.



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# RABBIT CONTROL OPTIONS

*There are usually several management options for solving any pest or disease problem. Use the non-pesticide approach whenever possible, saving pesticide use as the last line of defense. If a pest is identified at a damaging level, select a control targeted to the problem. This decision-making process is called "Integrated Pest Management" or "IPM".*

If you have a rabbit problem, observe which plants they prefer and adjust your planting, if possible.

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## FENCES AND BARRIERS

The most effective way to discourage rabbits is to use fences and barriers:

**For gardens:** Fence rabbits out by using 1 inch wire mesh, standing 3' above ground. Dig a trench 6" deep and 6" wide - follow diagram on front side of tip sheet for underground placement of wire mesh. For unfenced flowers and other plants, use portable frames, constructed using 1" wire mesh.

**For trees and shrubs:** Use cylinder cages made of 1/4" wire mesh hardware cloth, at least 2 feet tall; mice can also cause injury - to prevent girdling, the cylinder should be sunk 2" - 3" below the soil surface.

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## REPELLENTS

Common repellents, such as bloodmeal, fox urine, and others are available. If you decide to use a repellent, carefully review the labeling and determine if it is appropriate to use on food crops. Read the "*Precautionary Statements*" on the label and follow all instructions. Results with repellents vary, so monitor closely to determine product effectiveness.

### Sources of information:

Greg Patchan, Horticulture Agent, Oakland County MSU Extension.  
Ellis and Bradley, *Natural Insect and Disease Control*, Rodale Press  
Ellis, *Taylor's Weekend Gardening Guides*:  
*Organic Pest & Disease Control*, Houghton Mifflin

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### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

**Oakland County Garden Hotline:** 248/858-0902

**National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN):** 1-800-858-7378  
(Information about environmental and health effects of specific chemicals)

**Household pesticide disposal:** Call SOCRRA for an appointment: 248/288-5153

**Website:** [healthylandscapes.com](http://healthylandscapes.com)