



NON-ELECTRIC FENCE OPTIONS

For Deer & Wildlife Control



Wildlife pressure on gardens and crops has increased tremendously in the Northeast due to modern urbanization and the rise in deer population. As pressure increases on wildlife to find open spaces for forage, your gardens need a strong and sturdy fence system now, more than ever, to deter critters and wildlife from wreaking havoc on your land.

Since our beginning in 1978, Wellscroft has been the Northeast's leading expert in dependable fencing systems for all types of animal inclusion and exclusion. Here are a few of our Non-Electric options for deterring and excluding wildlife from your crops.

There are many considerations that must be taken into account for each individual's situation. On the back of this page is an outline of five different types of non-electric anti-wildlife fences that we have used with growers and state agencies over the last 30 years. Before you get started, here are questions that will help make the correct choices in fencing options:

- What type of wildlife needs to be excluded?
- Do you need both psychological and/or physical?
- Temporary or permanent?
- Seasonal?
- Rented or leased land?
- Other sources of food in the area for wildlife?
- What degree of exclusion is needed?
- Annual or perennial crop?
- Is winter a factor?

A non-electric fence must be physically very strong as there is no deterrent to keep the critters from making their way through the fence. Non-electric fences have the advantage of requiring the least maintenance and being the most effective. Over the years, many studies have been done of these various options and there is no doubt that an **8' Fixed Knot high-tensile fence** (see large photo below and #4 on reverse) is the **most effective and economical** deer exclusion fence. It is, however, more labor intensive to erect. Many growers estimate that they have paid for the fence in crop savings in just two years. Wellscroft has hundreds of these fence systems working in the Northeast and can supply you with names of growers in your area that will share their experiences.



Above: An 8' Smart Net Anti-deer fence protects the Westford, MA Community Garden.



Above: When calculated out, a Fixed Knot Woven Wire fence is the most cost effective permanent method for deer and wildlife exclusion. The Black, 8' version pictured above protects acres of fruit trees at Carlson Orchards in Harvard, MA.

1) Smart Net Anti-Deer Fence, 8' x 100' or 250' rolls

- Easy to install and move
- Has its own polyester support line built in (post needed every 15'-20')
- Needs braced corners and must be stretched
- Black net disappears
- Longevity: 15 years



Above: Smart Net Anti-Deer fence attached to trees and posts.

2) 91" Tenax – C-Flex Anti-Deer Mesh

- Least visible
- Easily installed (post every 25'), Hangs on 8 g. poly-line or 12 g. steel wire
- Good for light pressure, but may be penetrated if not complemented with an electric offset
- Not good for small wildlife, which could chew through it
- Longevity: 10 years



Above: 91" high Tenax is a quick and effective exclusion fence for light deer pressure. Can be used in conjunction with an electric offset.

3) Woven Wire 2x4, 6' high

- Good for small areas with light deer pressure and small critters
- Needs braced corners and must be stretched
- Post every 15'
- Longevity: 20 years

4) Woven Wire Fixed Knot 6', 8', or 10' high

- The most cost effective and permanent method in the long run for deer
- One-piece vertical resists snow and ice loads, deer penetration
- Available in black as well as galvanized steel, 14 or 12 ½ gauge
- Least amount of maintenance
- Must be braced with PT or pipe posts, wood, pipe, or galvanized T-posts can be used in between braces
- Longevity: 25-30 years minimum

5) Smart Net Overhead & Side Netting System for Birds

- Fully protects crops from birds
- Extremely effective
- Pays for itself in the first year of crop savings
- Netting is permanently attached to side support wires and at the end of the growing season is pulled back and stored in the air at one end.
- Netting is supported by lines of high-tensile wire 8-9' in the air
- Longevity: 10 years on net, 25 years on support infrastructure

If the fence needs to deter both deer and smaller critters such as woodchucks, raccoons, rabbits, etc., an additional baited electrical offset wire is essential as those predators will just climb over or dig under a physical fence. To deter aerial predation from birds, Wellscroft highly recommends the Smart Net System of overhead netting which is suspended on grid of high-tensile wires nine feet in the air.



Above: Smart Net Overhead & Side Netting System protects crops from aerial predators.

GET A FREE PROJECT COST ESTIMATE!

Wellscroft Fence Systems can do a free estimate of the material cost of your fence requirements if you answer the questions in our catalog or complete the estimate survey on our website, and provide a sketch or rough map of the shape and length of the project. Be sure to note: corners, gates with sizes, type of fence, what materials are owned, distance to power, aesthetic issues, type of animal to be excluded, etc. If you wish to have the fence built, Wellscroft will provide you with a list of approved contractors. Call our experts at 1-855-FARMFENCE to discuss your options.