

CRITTER CONTROL

Now that the weather is getting warmer, the local critters are startin' to show their little mugs around your yard and garden again. While they're cute, they can also be major nuisances! To keep 'em out of your hair, try these tips and tricks:

Squirrels

- Keep squirrels from stealing your birdseed by smearing **ground cayenne pepper mixed with petroleum jelly** up and down the feeder poles.
- Wrap trees with 5-foot-long metal flashing so squirrels can't climb to get to the feeders.



Chipmunks

- Fill little cloth bags with dog or cat hair, or scatter it around areas the 'munks frequent.
- Since chipmunks live underground, place rags soaked in ammonia in their runs or holes.



Deer

- Deter deer by relying on the critters' sense of smell. Scatter any of these around deer stomping grounds, and they'll head for friendlier territory: perfumed or deodorant soap, smelly socks, dog or human hair.
- Use my **Deer Busting Egg Tonic** to keep 'em from munchin' on your trees, shrubs, or flowers.



Rabbits

- Protect trees from damage by making hardware cloth guards. Shape the cloth into cylinders about 2 inches larger than the diameter of the tree trunk. Anchor them in the ground at the base of the tree.
- Certain planting practices can minimize rabbit damage. Plant soybeans—far away from the garden—to lure hungry bunnies from your main crops. Onions and garlic can be interplanted with lettuce, peas, or beans to keep rabbits away. They also hate tansy, rue, and rosemary, so fill your beds with these repellents.



Woodchucks

- Protect your plants by sprinkling ground cayenne or black pepper, blood meal, or talcum powder around them.
- Use my **Woodchuck Repellent Tonic** around your garden. Purée **2 tbsp. of cayenne pepper, 2 cloves of garlic, and 2 tbsp. of shampoo in 1 gallon of water**, and spray liberally.



Deer Busting Egg Tonic

2 eggs,
2 cloves of garlic,
2 tbsp. of Tabasco® sauce,
2 tbsp. of cayenne pepper, and
2 cups of water.

Put it all in a blender, and purée. Allow the mixture to sit for two days. Then pour or spray it all over and around the plants you need to protect.