



# ELECTRIC OPTIONS FOR GARDEN & CROP PROTECTION



It seems as the demand for locally produced vegetables increases, so too does the threat from deer and critters (i.e. raccoons, woodchucks, rabbits, skunks, and more). Whether you are starting a garden in your backyard or you have been running a commercial CSA for many years, you understand the importance of protecting your investment not just for yourself, but for all those that depend on the fruits of your labor. At Wellscroft, we understand the value of your garden and offer a range of fencing solutions targeted to the specific size and needs of your operation.

## MULTIPLE STRAND OPTIONS FOR DEER & CRITTER CONTROL

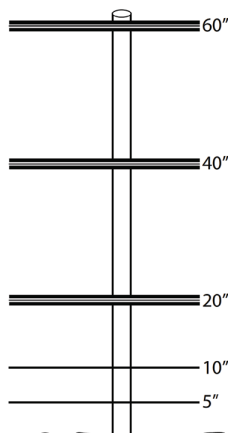
A semi-permanent electric fence installed with a combination of conductor types is proven to be both effective and economical. A three tape, 2D system provides excellent all-around protection whereas gardens in areas with high deer pressure may choose a 3D fence to add greater depth and effectiveness.

## MATERIALS

- Electrified tape or rope at 20", 40", and 60" from the ground
- 1/2" Tape is recommended because it moves with the wind and attracts the deer's attention; tape also requires less room when wound up on a reel.
- For exclusion of smaller critters (i.e. raccoons, woodchucks, and skunks), add two MaxiShock™ or polytwine strands 5" and 10" from the ground
- 3/8" or 1/2" x 4' - 7' fiber rod, every 25' for deer or every 20' for smaller predators for low wires
- Wood or steel T-posts with insulators for corners, gate openings, or major changes in direction
- Energizer and accessories
- Ground rods and clamps
- Gate handles, spring gates, or net gates
- Reels, to store tape, rope and MaxiShock™ when not in use
- P-springs to keep conductors tight, especially 1/2" tape
- Multi-light fence tester or fence alert
- Electric fence warning signs

**NOTE:** This fence needs to be taken down in the winter as dry snow or ground prevents the critter/deer from getting a shock due to poor ground contact and they learn to walk through it. **Always** re-bait the fence when putting it back up in the Spring.

**Right:** One possible variation to the three strand tape system is to add two strands of MaxiShock™ at 5" and 10" to ward off smaller critters.



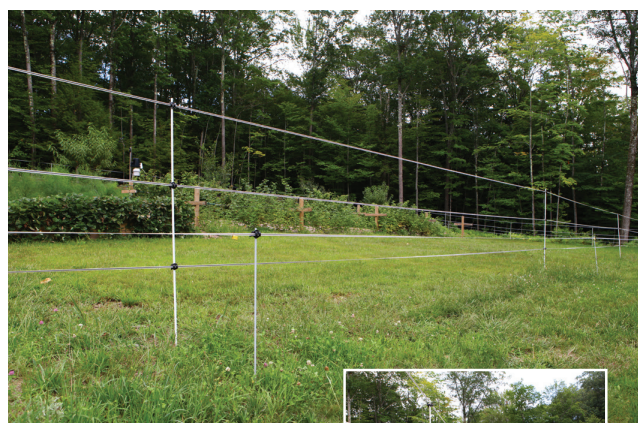
## TYPES OF ANTI-DEER FENCE

**2D** - This style of fence is what is commonly seen around pastures to keep livestock in. It consists of one or more strands and displays height, but no depth when approached straight on.

**3D** - By adding a second fence of one strand set 36" in front (30" high) of the existing 2D fence, it forms a lane between the two vertical fences thus giving the combined fences depth. Deer have less depth perception than animals with eyes in the front of their head. A 3D fence creates uncertainty about the depth of the fence and therefore discourages attempts to jump it.



**Above:** This 2D fence, comprised of 3 strands of 1/2" tape supported by 1/2" fiber rods, protects Marini Farm from a large deer population.



**Above:** A 3D fence protecting a garden from deer penetration is formed using a tape conductor strung on 1/2" fiber rods with screw-on insulators.

## RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY GARDEN & CROP PROTECTION OPTIONS

Small, electrified garden net fences are effective at keeping unwanted pests out while also blending in so as not to interrupt the aesthetics of a well-planned backyard garden. These fences are typically best suited for areas one acre or less in size and are very effective against rabbits.

### GARDEN FENCE

#### Materials:

- Electrified Netting (one or more of the types listed below)
  - 20", 30", or 60" VersaNet™, for protection against woodchucks, raccoons, rabbits, and deer
  - 48" Anti-deer/critter dark green net
  - Deer QuikFence™, 60" or PermaNet®, 48"
- 110, 12 volt or solar energizer
- Set of leads or 14 gauge insulated wire
- Energizer support post
- 4' ground rod & clamp
- Fence voltage tester
- Electric fence warning signs
- Extra fiber rods or tread-in posts for corner support

**NOTE:** In most cases, the 30" net is a sufficient deterrent to deer, but when deer pressure is heavy, we recommend baiting the tape or net at 30" and/or installing one or two tapes or use 48" net.



**Above and Right:** Garden fence using dark green 30" VersaNet.

### PERMANENT

*For permanent, non-electric deer exclusion fence, there are many options available. To get a custom quote for the area you need to fence, call us toll-free at 855-327-6336 today!*



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

### ELECTRIFICATION OF EXISTING GARDEN FENCE

If you have an existing chicken or woven wire fence, you can deter predators from going through or climbing over it by adding two "scare" wires; one at 8" from the ground and another near the top of your fence. We recommend that you use the MaxiShock™ cable due to its durability and conductivity. Also, use P-springs and twist tights to keep the wires taut to prevent the electrified "scare" wires from grounding out on the woven wire.

#### Materials:

- Offset brackets or stand-off insulators
- Polywire or fence wire
- Terminal insulators
- P-springs
- Twist Tights
- Gate break handle
- Energizer, 110v or 12v
- Fence voltage tester

### RECOMMENDATIONS & BEST PRACTICES

- Always keep the fence energized.
- Check for proper grounding; add additional ground rods if necessary.
- Keep a clear lane on the outside of the fence so it is visible to the deer. Fence should be at least three to six feet from the edge of the woods.
- Baiting electric fences involves attracting animals to the fence to receive a strong head shock. This practice greatly improves the efficacy of the fence by teaching the predators what the fence will do. We recommend regular baiting by securely attaching to the fence the following "scent cap": peanut butter placed in pockets of aluminum foil securely attached to the fence.
- While erecting fence, energize the wires immediately (even before installation is complete) so the deer's first encounter is manageable.
- Maintaining vegetation under either net or multiple smooth wire fences is very important so the fence does not short out and lose voltage.
- If using a multi-strand fence system, Wellscoft recommends incorporating at least one strand of 1/2" electric tape or rope in conjunction with wire strands to add visibility and movement to the fence.

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