

Are you listening, Elmer?

You can defeat that pesky rabbit, says expert

It's easy to admit that rabbits have a right to eat, too, as long as they aren't browsing in your garden. But it's hard to be objective when the rabbits are reaping the fruits of your labor.

"You really have just two choices to keep rabbits out of the garden," said Glenn Dudderar, extension wildlife specialist at Michigan State University.

"You can fence them out or you can use chemical taste repellents to discourage their nibbling."

Unless you also have problems with woodchucks or raccoons, a fence made of plastic bird netting fastened to stakes should be sufficient, he said. Plant the stakes in the ground and string a rope or strong cord between them.

Then fasten the netting to the stakes

and the rope. It should be at least 24 inches high and lap outward away from the garden for 12 to 18 inches.

"A rabbit trying to get into the garden runs into the net, which is too high for him to jump over," Dudderar said. "If he tries to dig under the net, he's foiled by the netting on the ground. You and I can see that all he needs to do is back up a little and then dig, but the rabbit can't reason that way."

WOODCHUCKS AND raccoons won't stop to ponder a bird netting fence, they'll just climb right over it. A chicken wire enclosure built according to a particular plan will frustrate them, however.

"A fence to keep raccoons and groundhogs out needs to be loose and sloppy looking," Dudderar said. "They'll swarm right up and over a snug, vertical fence. Instead, tack

chicken wire onto stakes so that it forms a loose C-shape facing away from the garden. Put the tacks or staples halfway up the stakes so that, when the animal climbs up, the top of the wire is free to bend downward with its weight. The animal will eventually learn that all its climbing gets it nowhere but back where it started."

Taste repellents are another possibility, but they have certain built-in limitations, Dudderar said. They are highly water soluble, so they wash off in even a light rain and must be reapplied frequently. They don't migrate about the plant, so they must be

applied to all new growth as it appears. They cannot be used on any plant parts that humans will eat. And, simply because they are chemicals that humans must use, they can very easily be misused.

"Taste repellents do work," Dudderar said, "but you have to be persistent and careful with them for them to be safe and effective. A fence is much easier. You put it up once and it stays up as long as you need it. Bird netting or chicken wire can be used over and over. Netting can even be flipped up on the rope between the stakes so you can mow under it."

Neutrons to fight cancer at WSU

Wayne State University President George E. Gullen, Jr., has announced that the first neutron therapy generator for cancer treatment in Michigan will be installed in the university's Central Radiation Therapy Facility.

In addition to saving lives, the neutron therapy is aimed at providing greater comfort for patients, reduction of disfigurement from tumors and relief of pain.

The installation of the generator will enable the Central Radiation Therapy Facility to offer neutron therapy for the first time. There are presently only five neutron generators in the United States being used for patient care.

Over the last several years, at five centers in the United States and several centers in Europe, neutron therapy devices have been used to treat a variety of malignancies that respond poorly to conventional radiation treatment.

While most of these neutron therapy devices were produced for physics

experiments, significant progress has been made in medical applications and machines are now being designed specifically for patient treatment such as the one to be constructed here, he said.

The Central Radiation Therapy Facility will be located underground and connected to the University Clinics Building to be completed in the Detroit Medical Center this year.

Completion of the neutron therapy unit is projected for the early 1980's.

The neutron therapy facility will incorporate the latest in treatment and control equipment and will augment the teaching and research opportunities of the WSU School of Medicine. Because of its capacity and treatment potential, the facility will service physicians and patients from throughout Michigan, surrounding states, and Canada.

Nest egg is course topic

A course in personal finance will be offered by the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College during the summer session. The three-credit-hour course will meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. June 29 through Aug. 17. Registration will take place on June 28 and 29. Tuition is \$48

for residents.

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