



HWCC Humboldt Wildlife Care Center

Living with Deer/Squirrel/Gopher/Mole

Deer They often come into conflict with people when they eat ornamental plants. The best way to avoid this is to plant deer resistant or native plants, especially surrounding flowerbeds and gardens. Deer netting/fencing can be used over/around non-resistant plants. There are several commercially made repellants for deer, which may be used in conjunction with netting, for maximum effect. Automatic motion-detecting water sprayers, called Scarecrows, are available to harmlessly scare deer away from your property.

Squirrel The best way to deal with squirrels is to board up or screen off access to attics and cap chimneys, preventing squirrels from taking up residence. If squirrels already live in these areas, loud music and repellents can drive them out. One-way doors can be installed to let squirrels out, but not in. Once the squirrels have left, screen off the opening. If babies are present, try to wait until they are old enough to leave on their own. Contact a wildlife rehabilitator if this is not possible. Trim tree branches that overhang the roof, cutting off access to squirrels. If you feed wild birds, use squirrel proof feeders and clean up fallen seed. Secure garbage and compost bins, and make sure that pet foods are not available to squirrels. Wire screening can be laid over gardens to prevent squirrels from digging.

Gopher / Mole Planting bulbs and ornamental plants in raised beds with wire mesh beneath them will prevent damage. Wire mesh can also be used to surround root balls before planting, to protect against damage. A perimeter of wire screening can be buried 2 feet deep around gardens, leaving 6 inches above ground. Though no plant is truly gopher proof, several plants may deter burrowing mammals, including Gopher Purge.