

The A.R.T. of Deer Fence

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A.R.T. - Associated Risk of Ticks

History Of Deer Fence

To understand where we are today in terms of deer abatement fencing, we first have to understand how the industry has evolved over the past 50 years. Deer Abatement must be thought of differently and be kept separate and distinct from Deer Containment. Deer containment fence is highly visible, very strong and rigid, and very tall (usually 12'-14' high) and works off of different principles than does deer abatement fencing. Deer abatement fence fabric utilizes as little material as possible to get the job done, and should always be constructed of a thin black material, thus remaining invisible to deer. In addition, it rarely has to be over 6.5'-7' high and will work on 99% of residential applications at 6' high.

The very first deer abatement fence fabric was patented in New Zealand in the early 1960's. Originally called "Big Game Fence" or "New Zealand Elk Fence", it is more commonly known today as "Solid Lock" or "Field Fence". A very heavy and rigid steel fence fabric, this product is best used on wide open spans of very flat ground, with little to no twists and turns or dramatic ups and downs. This product cannot be flapped or folded on the ground, to eliminate the seam on the bottom where the fence meets the ground. This installation technique is considered GOSPEL in deer fence terms. However, if the terrain is perfectly flat, it can be a very effective deer fence.

The next deer abatement fence fabric to hit the market was Polypropylene plastic fence, introduced to the U.S. market by an Italian Company in the early 1980's. Originally sold as "Plastic Wire Fence", it was quickly converted in name and application to "Deer Fencing" after so many customers in the U.S. were buying it and using it for that purpose. The two words "Deer" and "Fence" were never before put together to create a new term in the industry, now commonly known as "Deer Fence". Not a super strong material, Polypropylene Plastic Deer Fence works more on the principle that the animal cannot see the fence barrier and because it is a netting type of fence fabric, it can be easily folded to the ground to form a 6"-8" flap on the outside of the perimeter to eliminate the seam on the bottom all the way around the fence. This effectively prevents deer from nosing the fence up and squeezing under the fence to gain access. This is what deer want to try and try and try again, before they ever think about going "Airborne". Deer would much rather go around a fence they can't see, than risk becoming entangled in the fence attempting to jump over it. This is one of the animals greatest fears.

The third generation of deer fence comes in the form of a tall tennis net, or a short version of a batting cage protective netting. Polyethylene knotted netting has been sold as deer abatement barrier fencing for about 20 years. Very light and easy to install, but susceptible to rabbits and ground hogs chewing access points in the bottom of the fence, just as with all plastic fence. Also, this form of poly deer fence has strength issues and cannot be trusted for large perimeter abatement fences. Again, this is true of all Poly Plastic Deer Fencing! If the deer want back into the property badly enough, they will test the fence in a few different ways. At first, they will try

to nose the fence up along much of the fence line. If not successful, they will then try to breach the fabric itself. How hard they try and how long they continue depends on how badly they want back in.

The fourth and final generation of deer fence fabric is actually a quagmire in the industry, in that it is the newest deer abatement fence, but the oldest fence fabric of the four. How can this be, you ask? In 2001 I began a quest to introduce to the public the most advanced yet affordable deer abatement fence fabric to date. Steel wire, zinc galvanized, and PVC coated black...Hexagon shaped cells at one inch openings, Hex Mesh deer abatement fence fabric is like no other fence fabric on the market or in existence today. It is the strongest for its weight, and at the same time the least visible of any of its predecessors. Hex mesh is a steel netting that can be applied to any situation that terrain can throw at you. It folds, shapes and contours into dips in the ground, or over huge boulders like no other substantial fence fabric. Hex twist fencing is also the most versatile fence because of how it connects to other types of fences like split-rail or even decorative black aluminum, steel or black iron fence. Hex connects the easiest and disappears the best. In fact, this particular fence fabric has been around since the early 1860's, originally patented to keep predators, both large and small, out of large poultry barns which housed anywhere from 20,000-30,000 birds in a single building. Yet, in the heat of summer, an entire wall had to be kept open all day and all night for ventilation purposes. The Nitrogen content in the bird's waste can be so high that it becomes dangerous to humans and to the birds as well. A fence fabric was in great demand, that was light weight, super strong, easy to work with and long lasting. When Hex Mesh was originally introduced in 1863, it was called "Wall Wire"....quite the appropriate name, wouldn't you say?

Associated Risk of Ticks

It has been proven through at least three scientific studies since 1998, that good deer fencing reduces tick counts inside the deer fence perimeter by an average of 83%. There is no question, the single best expenditure of your dollar, to permanently reduce tick counts on your property, is a high quality deer abatement fence, with proper installation techniques applied. Should you also spray the inside of the deer fence for the remaining 17% of the ticks.....ORGANICALLY, YES!

The 5 C's of Deer Fencing

C - Consistent.....Means that as an installer, you must always follow the next four C's.

C - Complete.....The deer fence perimeter must always be complete. No gaps or openings!

C - Contour.....The deer fence fabric must always contour and shape to the ground. Some of the height of the roll should always be sacrificed to the ground and flapped to the outside, to effectively eliminate the seam from the outside.

C - Color.....A good deer abatement fence should always be a thin black material, thus remaining invisible to the animal, and to us.

C - Content.....Deer Abatement Fence Fabric should always be Galvanized Steel. Medium to large deer fence perimeters will experience considerable pressure and even impacts. To ensure long-term efficacy the deer fence should always be metal.