



# HOME & GARDEN

HOME AND GARDEN INFORMATION CENTER • 12005 HOMEWOOD ROAD • ELLICOTT CITY, MD 21042 • 1-800-342-2507

## Wildlife Pest Tips - December 2008

- Leave the large seedheads of black-eyed susans, coneflowers and other perennials for birds to feed on over the winter. Plan to feed and supply water to birds for the entire winter season.
- Where voles are a problem try using snap traps baited with apples.
- Store bird seed in metal cans with tight fitting lids to keep squirrels and mice at bay. These critters can chew through plastic lids.
- Fox are more prevalent in suburban and urban areas. They are not very shy and become easily accustomed to humans. They are wild animals, however, and should not be approached or encouraged. Do not allow fox, skunks and raccoons access to edible trash, or dog, cat or bird food.
- Where deer are feeding on garden and landscape plants, apply a repellent, such as “Deer-Away”, “Deer Off”, “Hinder” or “Ro-Pel” to vulnerable plants. Small deodorant soap bars, human hair and urine, and chile pepper sprays are some other less conventional repellents that have been used with some success. If deer pressure is heavy, try rotating repellents.
- Squirrels will come to eat the bird food you put out even when your bird feeders are advertised as “squirrel-proof”. Learn to live with visiting squirrels or offer them alternate food like ears of feed corn.

**Have a pest or gardening question?**

**Call the Home and Garden Information Center**

**1-800-342-2507**

**[www.hgic.umd.edu](http://www.hgic.umd.edu)**

Educating People To Help Themselves

Local Governments - U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating

The University of Maryland is equal opportunity. The University's policies, programs, and activities are in conformance with pertinent Federal and State laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, and disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990; or related legal requirements should be directed to the Director of Personnel/Human Relations, Office of the Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Symons Hall, College Park, MD 20742.