



# HOME & GARDEN

Home and Garden information center • 12005 Homewood Road • Ellicott City, MD 21042 • 1-800-342-2507

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## Wildlife Tips

- Rabbits are a frequent nuisance in flower and vegetable gardens, feeding on young and tender plants. They can be excluded with a low, 2 ft. high fence that is secured to the ground. You can also repel them with commercial repellents, bloodmeal, or by sprinkling hot pepper flakes around plants.
- Remove bird nests attached to your house after the birds have left to prevent problems with bird mites coming into your home. These small mites do bite people. Bird nests may also be found in rain gutters, and chimneys.
- Continue to provide your wild birds with fresh water.
- Moles and voles are active now. Where voles are a problem try using snap traps baited with apples. Moles can be controlled by collapsing tunnels and installing spear traps in new runways. Moles feed on white grubs, so applying an insecticide to control white grubs may reduce your mole problem. In more rural neighborhoods black rat snakes will feed on both voles and moles.
- Where deer are feeding on garden and landscape plants, apply a repellent, such as “Deer-Away”, “Hinder”, “Ro-Pel”, “Liquid Fence” to vulnerable plants. If deer pressure is heavy, try rotating repellents. A new systemic product called Repellex is now available. Small deodorant soap bars hung on the shrubs or on sticks around the plants you want to protect have been used with some success. A strand of electric fence about three feet high around your garden and property is helpful. This may sound too low but it works as deer always sniff around before entering an area and will get shocked by the wire. Baiting the fence with aluminum foil smeared with peanut butter will help teach the deer about electric fences.

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