

One week of exasperation ended with the sprinklers spraying. He enjoyed his shower, and probably used the remaining Irish Spring soap to irritate me further.

The eighth evening I waited outside the fence until Mr. Buck ambled within a few feet of me. He was ready to spring when I roared like a mountain lion. Being a big cat was the best and least expensive solution. Hurrah, one victory for me!

My triumph was temporary.

As I write this, we are on night 14 of battling the buck. None of the prescribed remedies have worked, and the deer has become a nightly nuisance. I have yet to attempt an electric fence, but stringing fishing wire from post to post did not arrest his soaring either. Since I don't know where to buy "panther piss" and although suggested, a venison dinner is not an option, my long-term remedy is to build higher fences.

Suggestions from my dear deer ordeal:

- Don't intentionally feed the deer.
- Pick up fallen fruit from trees.
- Yell, scream, and wave your arms to keep the deer away. Once they become unafraid of you as they are of me, they may just jump your fence.
- Let your dog be the night guard.
- Water drought-resistant plants just enough to keep them alive. When they get too healthy, deer devour new growth.
- Block the paths of invading deer to confuse their routine routes.
- Before planting a plethora of new flowers, consider planting a single plant in a deer test garden. If it survives two weeks without being munched, it's probably going to be safe. What I've learned from this experience is that not only are there no deer proof plants, but in our area, like us, deer are gourmet foodies.
- The only guaranteed full proof resolution is to build a fence tall enough that deer can't catapult over it.

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