

hardly use edging tools. Be aware that vegetation browns out so, if you do a large area, you'll have a somewhat unattractive spot for a few days before it fully decomposes (or you can rake it away).

If you don't like or can't find either of those two, you might be able to find Avenger Weed Killer, another effective product. This one works using citrus oil that strips away the protective cuticle of the plant, leading to dehydration and death. It is approved for organic production, and you won't have that



Everguard and Deer Defeat deer repellents.

staining problem or the possibility of fire. Like the horticultural vinegar, it's non-selective so you need to be mindful about protecting your desirable vegetation.

The new kid on the block is iron, specifically a compound known as Ferric HEDTA. It's sold as a selective weed killer, which means you can use it on your lawn, for example, and not kill the grass, only certain weeds as indicated on the label. Ortho sells it as Ortho Elementals Lawn Weed Killer and Gardens Alive! sells it as Iron X™ Selective Weed Killer. Safe for everything except the weeds!

Aromas of a salad bar, a freshly cleaned house, or a smoky fireplace: low toxic weed killers have much more interesting smells than the toxic ones, don't you think?

Deer Repellents

How about some of those repellents? People always ask me if they are harmful. If you have allergies to things

like garlic, putrefied eggs, capsaicin, etc., then, yes, I would steer clear of them. But for most of us, including the intended targets, repellency – not death – is the objective.

Deer repellents like Bobbex and Liquid Fence Deer & Rabbit Repellent have been around for a while with proven effectiveness. Two newer prod-



Liquid Net and Yard Net.

I can recommend from personal experience are Deer Defeat

What sets Deer Defeat apart is that it doesn't clog your sprayer, you don't need to rotate this one with other products, as is normally the case, and it lasts an extremely long time. It also repels more than just deer. Their website (www.deerdefeat.com) has all the details including where to buy it.

Everguard is a product I tried this season on shrubs, containers of tulips (deer candy), etc.; nothing got touched. I didn't reapply until I planted more spring color like pansies, which got sprayed and they were also untouched. My sprayer didn't clog and it was obvious that this product was long lasting. Again, the website www.everguard.com has the details.

Insect Repellents

Insect repellents are an important tool and I have settled on one to the exclusion of all others. Believe me when I tell you I have tried them all.

The same people that sell Liquid Fence make something called Liquid Net. A DEET-free formula of botanical oils of cedarwood and lemongrass, it comes in a spray bottle with a package

of towelettes/wipes.

The wipes are convenient. I keep some in my purse for those evenings when we play miniature golf with my grandsons, in my car for when we're at the ball field – you get the picture.

They also have a product for the whole yard called Yard Net that you can get in liquid or granular form.

Made with botanical oils, Yard Net creates a repelling barrier that dramatically reduces the presence of biting insects such as mosquitoes, fleas, ticks and black flies (gnats). It's always in my tool bin and wheelbarrow. Go to www.liquidfence.com to find out more and where to buy.

Stop & Reflect

Before I discuss the other product categories, let's get on the same page. If your plants have bugs and diseases, you should step back and do some analysis; is this the right plant for the right place? Does it have the right amount of light for its needs? Is it adequately spaced from its neighbors? Is the moisture content of the soil right? Is the rest of the soil profile right, i.e., pH and nutrients?

Let's talk about that soil. When was the last time you had it tested? Is it healthy with microbes or has it been neglected? In many situations, when plants don't perform, you're seeing a reaction to the soil. They're weakened because they can't get what they need from the soil and, in that weak condition, they succumb to the stresses of

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Deer Overrunning You?
Deer Defeat to the Rescue!



All Natural Deer, Rabbit and Groundhog Repellent

- safe for humans and animals
- dries odorless in minutes
- winter application
- will not clog sprayer
- year round protection
- no need to reapply after rain



To see how effective Deer Defeat is visit: www.deerdefeat.com
518-755-1086 mail@deerdefeat.com

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