

# LIVING WITH DEER



White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) are highly adaptable and can live easily in suburban and urban environments. Without some population management, deer can become overpopulated and cause damage to the environment around them, including damage to landscaping, gardens, and ornamental vegetation. Deer are extremely agile and can jump over obstacles as high as eight feet, which can make excluding them from yards difficult.

## CONFLICTS

- Reduce or eliminate attractants. If you have fruiting trees in your background, harvest the fruits as soon as they are ripe and pick up any dropped fruit.
- Use repellents, such as Milorganite, to discourage deer from browsing or using your yard.
- Plant deer tolerant plants ([UGA Extension List of Deer-Tolerant Plants](#)).
- Install motion activated sprinklers or alarms to scare deer away.
- Put up exclusion fencing on landscaping to prevent deer browse.
- Wrap trees or place tubes/tree shelters around the trunk of the tree will effectively reduce browsing and antler-rubbing damage on the trees.

## ORPHANED FAWNS

Does give birth to 1-2 fawns between May and August with a peak in June. Fawns are hidden by the does for the first few weeks of their lives to avoid predators. It is not uncommon to see a fawn by itself. Does will leave fawns in protected areas, like a fenced yard, to help protect them from predators. Never pick up a fawn. A fawn's main defense is its lack of scent. You should only call a permitted wildlife rehabilitator when:

- You are certain the doe is dead.
- The doe does not return after 24 hours.



## DISEASE CONCERNS

**DISEASE CONCERNS: Sick or critically injured deer are secretive and unlikely to be seen.** However, there are circumstances where wildlife biologists rely on the public to notify them of sick animals in order to monitor disease issues. Here are the top 5 circumstances when you should call and talk to a biologist:

- Dead deer in or near a stream, lake, or pond with no apparent injuries.
- Emaciated deer, which are so skinny that their backbone, pelvic bones, and all ribs are showing.
- Deer with no apparent injuries with drooping ears, abnormal posture, or drooling heavily.
- Deer walking in circles, have a lack of coordination, or trouble standing or walking.
- Deer that are excessively coughing or sneezing.

## LEGAL METHODS FOR REMOVING DEER:

Allowing hunting on your land or in your neighborhood [during hunting season](#).