Instructions for Installing Deer Fence

The following instructions were provided by the manufacturer.

This fencing is very easy to install because it weighs less than 1-1/2 lbs. per 100 feet. This means only posts of small cross-section are required. 2" x 2" material is adequate unless it is weakened with too many knots, then 2" x 4" or 2"+ diameter wood would be preferred. Corner posts may require braces or guy wires depending upon the amount of tension you put on the fence. For ends of a run, it is always best to staple the mesh to the post and then rotate the post 1-1/2 turns before firming the ground around it. Using this technique the stress on the staples is substantially reduced, transferring most of it to the friction of the mesh wrapping on the post. The sample layout shows the places where the technique would be needed.

Attaching Fencing to Posts

You can attach mesh to posts and poles with a hand stapler but you need to be careful about the power of the stapler since it can cut through the mesh if too much force is used, particularly if you are stapling into softwood. Traditional U-shaped staples will not cut the mesh but they must be driven individually using a hammer or a fencing tool.
Putting Gates Into Fences

It is particularly easy to make gates in mesh fences. Because so little weight and so little tension has to be accommodated, all that is required is a slim pole adjacent to a regular post to create a gate. The easiest way to retain the slim pole is to angle a couple of 3” finishing nails into the fixed post so that the slim pole (with the mesh wrapped around it 1-1/2 times or more) can simply be slipped behind the angled nails so that the pole is held in place with normal fence tension. This makes it easy to open a large gap for access. The gate can be 25 ft. wide and still be perfectly manageable. Of course, a regular post serves as the opposite side of the gate, so no hinges or latches are involved.
Making the Fence Visible to Deer at Night

Once the fence is installed, you will notice that the mesh is virtually invisible if you are any more than 20 ft. away from it. This is a nice feature but it also means the fence is invisible to deer in the dark. For that reason, a ribbon should be interwoven at about the 3 ft. level so that deer are alerted to the existence of the fence, otherwise they might stumble through it. Experience has shown that they will not attempt to force their way through it if they are aware of it.

Rodent Proofing

If the netting is secured to the ground every 10 ft. or so, it will prevent rabbits from getting in the garden. That will also usually work for groundhogs but less space between pins may be required. It will also deter all but the smallest squirrels.

Tech Tip for Ground Pins

Pins for holding mesh snugly to the ground are easily made from pruning trash or scrap wood. See diagrams at right.