

Preventing Deer Damage

Introduction

Browsing deer can be a treat for people to watch, however they can cause extensive damage to trees and shrubs through foraging and rubbing antlers. In the winter when food becomes scarce, deer will frequently venture into urban areas, where available plants might not be sufficient to fulfill nutritional needs. At this point your trees and shrubs begin to look very appealing. A hungry deer will find nearly any plant palatable, so no varieties are truly deer proof.

Management

It is difficult to move deer out of an area where they are causing problems. Not all strategies are effective, and many lose efficacy over time. Frightening deer with noise machines, strobe lights or dogs quickly lose usefulness as deer become accustomed to their effects. More practical management includes selecting plants unattractive to deer, treating plants with deer repellants, netting, tubing, and fencing.

Placement and selection of plants can mitigate the extent of damage. Plant more susceptible greenery close to your home, behind fencing, or in a ring of unpalatable plants. Although no varieties of plant are truly deer proof, some are less preferred than others. Lists of these species can be found on both of the fact sheets listed at the bottom of the page.

Repellents are found in the form of contact repellents, sprayed on the plant to make them taste bad, or as area repellents, sprayed in an area to create a foul odor. Repellants should be applied on a dry day, when the temperatures are above freezing. Young trees should be treated completely. Older trees can get by with application only on new growth. Treat to a height 6 feet above the maximum snow depth.

Homemade Deer Repellent:

1 egg
1 quart warm water
Optional additives: 1 tsp hot pepper oil, 1tbsp. Tabasco Sauce, 1/4 C milk, 1tsp cooking oil, 2-3 drops dish soap

Combine egg and water in blender, strain with cheesecloth or nylon (This prevents sprayer from clogging). Place in spray bottle and apply to foliage. Reapply to new growth or after precipitation.

Tubes of Vexar netting around the base of individual seedlings is a helpful preventative for young trees. The material degrades in the sunlight and will break down after 3-5 years.

Fencing is the most reliable method for preventing deer damage. A conventional deer fence is above 8 ft tall and is made from woven wire. Electric fences can also be used. Electric fences should be made from triple galvanized, high-tensile 13.5 gauge wire, carrying a current of 35 milliamps and 3,000 to 4,500 volts. Fences should be marked with cloth strips, reflective tape or something similar, otherwise deer might not see it in time, and go right through it.

More detailed information on the topics listed above is available in the two fact sheets listed below.

Adapted from the Colorado State University Extension Fact Sheet No. 6.520 and Utah State University Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet NR/FF/022

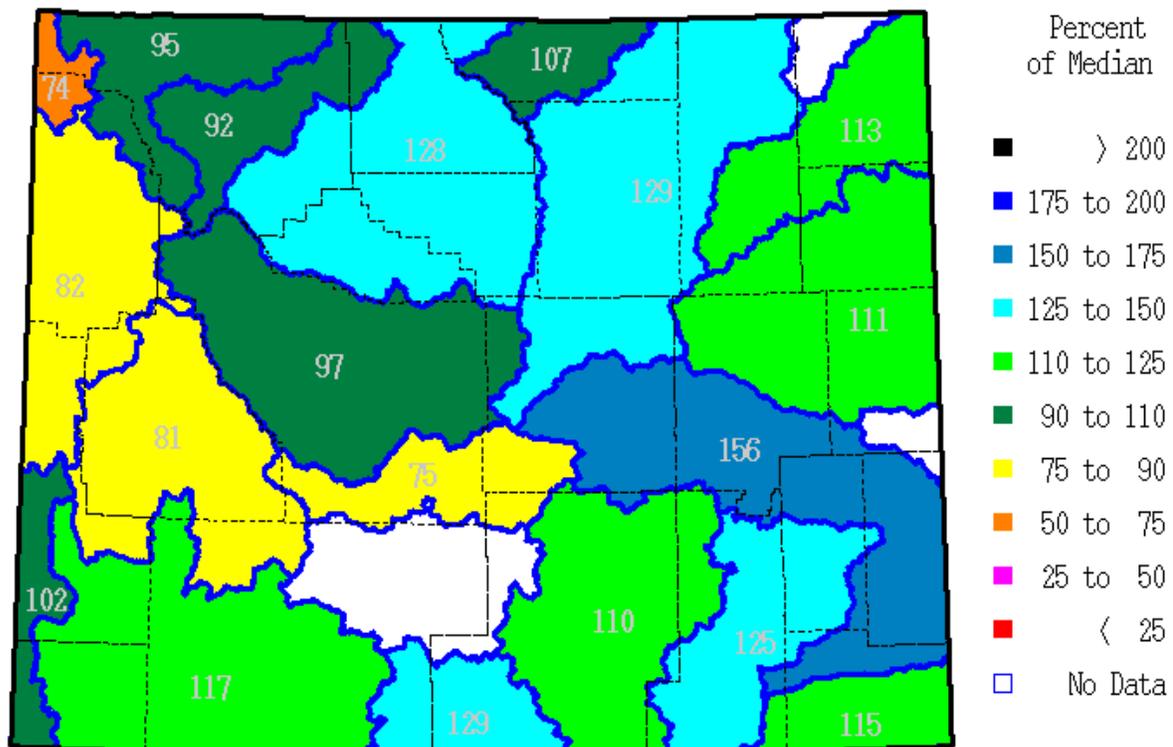


Southeast Wyoming SNOTEL Update

This year's snow totals for the Laramie range have been above average for most of the water year (Oct. 2019- Sept. 2020). It is still a little early to tell what this year's snowpack will bring for the irrigation season. The current reading for the Lower North Platte River basin is 156% of median. Last year at this time the Lower North Platte River basin was sitting at 116% of median. Based on historical data we still have our wetter months coming up (March thru May) which should increase the snowpack for the Lower North Platte River basin and the rest of Wyoming.

There are a total of four SNOTEL sites located within the Lower North Platte River basin that record snow depth and snow water equivalency (SWE). Currently the Casper Mountain SNOTEL site is sitting at a snow depth of 36 inches with a SWE of 8.4 inches which is 149% of median. Reno Hill SNOTEL site has the highest snow depth at 40 inches with a SWE of 8.4 inches and is 147% of median. Laprele SNOTEL site currently has a snow depth of 30 inches with a SWE of 6.3 inches and is 164% of median. Lastly Windy Peak SNOTEL rounds out the four sites with a snow depth of 24 inches and a SWE of 5.2 inches which is 177% of median. State wide we are sitting just above average for snow pack across most of the basins. The state SWE is currently at 108% of median, with a high in the Lower North Platte River basin at 156% and a low in the Madison/Gallatin River basin at 74% of median.

SWE % of Median as of Monday, 30 December 2019



Produced by the Wyoming Water Resources Data System: <http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu>
* = Data may not provide a valid measure of conditions

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Converse County FSA 2019 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

Acreage reporting dates vary by crop and by county so please contact your local FSA office for a list of county-specific deadlines.

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the applicable dates or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local FSA office

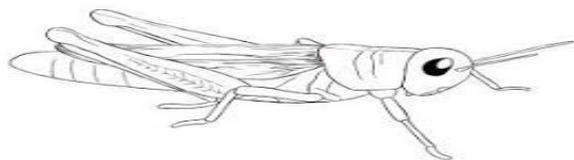


Tree orders are being accepted now! Several species have already sold out. You are encouraged to check species availability before placing your order. Updated order forms are available on our website or you are invited to stop by the CCCD office.

On behalf of the Converse County Conservation District and the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, Congratulations to Skyeleene Owens. Skyeleene participated in the annual NACD Stewardship Poster Contest. This year's theme was "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper." Skye's Poster won at both the County and the State level, and will go on to the NACD national judging. Winners will be announced in February. Congratulations Skye, we are very proud of you!

NOTICE

Early indicators show that grasshoppers may be a problem in Converse County again this year. Converse County Weed and Pest will be having a special cost-share program to help you deal with an infestation. Call them at 358-2775 to get signed up today!



Wishing you a healthy and prosperous 2020!



Converse County Conservation District
911 S. Windriver Drive
Douglas, WY 82633

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Converse County
Conservation District**
911 S. Windriver Drive
Douglas, WY 82633
Phone: 307-624-3164
michelle.huntington@wy.nacdn.net
Hours: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Board of Supervisors

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NRCS Staff

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Jake Hogan, Rangeland Mgmt. Specialist

ATTEND A CCCD BOARD MEETING

The Converse County Conservation District holds Board Meetings the third Thursday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m. We welcome your input, ideas, questions, and concerns regarding our projects and programs! Meetings are open to the public pursuant to Wyoming Statute 16-4-403.

Small Acreage Workshop

Converse County Conservation District and the Converse County Weed and Pest would like to invite you to attend the first in a series of Small-Acreage focused seminars.

Where: Converse County Library, 300 Walnut St. Douglas Wy

When: January 14th 2020, 9:00am-12:00pm

Topics to be discussed will include:

Developing a Small Acreage Management Plan

Winter Tree Health

Home Insect Remedies

Weed Disposal After Ripening



There will be time for questions, and a chance for you to let us know what would be beneficial to learn about during future seminars. We greatly look forward to your attendance.

Please RSVP to either the Converse County Weed & Pest, 307-358-2775, or the Conservation District, 307-624-3164 by January 7th 2020.