



## Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, Inc.

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### HOW TO PROTECT YOUR TREES FROM BEAVERS<sup>a</sup>

Beavers are members of the rodent family, so they must chew on trees to keep their teeth sharp and at the proper length. They also need to 'harvest' trees in order to provide food and materials for dams and lodges. Conflict arises when some of the trees in question are desired by people. There are several options available to protect specific trees from being felled by beavers.

#### Wire cage protectors:

Place homemade tree guards around the trunk. The guards should be about three feet high and made of galvanized welded wire (2 x 2 or 2 x 3 inch is recommended). These 'cages' should be large enough in diameter to encircle the trees with at least a 6" space between wire and trunk. A 12" space would be better, as beavers may gnaw between the wires of the mesh. This material can be found in hardware or home improvement stores, usually sold as fencing. Try not to use the lighter chicken wire, as it is generally too flimsy to provide good protection. You should pin guards to the ground using something like well-designed tent stakes.



#### Fencing:

Because beavers are not good climbers, three to four-foot-high fencing can also be a highly effective way to block their access to larger groves.

#### Textural deterrents:

Although some have had a degree of success using a paint and sand mixture to coat the bases of at-risk trees, we do not advocate this because of the potentially serious negative effects on the trees and on the plants, such as fungi and mosses, and various species of tiny animals living in the bark.

#### Temporary relief:

You can try sulphur-based deterrents like [Deer Off](#) or [other commercially available repellents](#). Unexpected Wildlife Refuge has no financial interest in the relevant companies and does not necessarily endorse the products mentioned. If you are aware of problems created by any of these products, please let us know so that we can bring them to the attention of others.

#### Our Web page on general beaver solutions:

[http://unexpectedwildliferefuge.org/uwr\\_public/uwr\\_beaver\\_solutions.php](http://unexpectedwildliferefuge.org/uwr_public/uwr_beaver_solutions.php)