



### Common Culprits & Damage:

- Deer, raccoons, squirrels, voles, and rabbits are the primary culprits to most orchards. Squirrels nibble on fruit; raccoons devour fruit; deer can break off branches or scrape fruit tree trunks; voles and rabbits destroy the bark near the soil.
- Squirrels, rabbits and voles are active throughout the day and night, while raccoons and deer eat primarily at night.
- Birds can cause substantial damage to ripening fruits and nuts. Various tactics may be utilized to deter these “fruit thieves.”
- Indicator of damages may include:
  - Chewing on trunks and roots
  - Bite marks on limbs and broken limbs
  - Missing fruit
  - Bark stripped from trunks and limbs

### Timing:

- Browsing damage on branches, leaves, and fruit may occur at any time.
- Chewing damage to trunks and roots occurs primarily during the dormant season, especially in winters with snowfall.
- Rubbing damage from deer occurs during summer and fall, as antlers mature.
- Squirrels are active throughout the day and night, while raccoons and deer eat primarily at night.

### Treatment:

- Traps (raccoon and squirrel)
- Blood meal in a cloth bag to deter deer
- Tree guards (e.g., trunk spirals) should be installed in early winter and removed in spring to prevent rabbits from chewing bark. Tree guards installed during the winter can prevent rodents, and small mammals from chewing on the trunk. Tree guards can also be effective in keeping deer from damaging the trunks.
- Squirrel baffles installed on trees 2-3 weeks before harvest
- “Trick tactics” such as:
  - Use scare-eye balloons (oversized eyes with foil streamers dangling below)
  - Plant wild berries (such as junberries, mulberries) in close proximity as a distraction
  - Install noise-makers (Ex. small chimes on trees can scare deer from feedback)
  - Set up a decoy-crop (red craft beads hung with a thin wire)
  - Hanging CD’s can scare birds from berry patches
  - Install bird netting to create a physical barrier to trees and brambles (ensure properly installed and maintained)