

# ✧ Renee's Garden ✧

Set The Table From Your Garden

## Keeping Bambi Out: Easy on the Eye Fencing Solutions

By Trial Garden Manager Lindsay Del Carlo



*If you garden in an area where deer are uninvited visitors, a good fence barrier is invaluable. It's really the only thing that works to protect our garden plantings and fruit trees. We have 2 different deer proof fencing solutions using galvanized wire in addition to wood boards. Both are unobtrusive to the eye, practically invisible from a distance and totally effective in eliminating deer browsing. Deer don't attempt to leap over the fence because they cannot judge the height of the wire and will not risk hurting themselves.*

The first method is one we used to construct new wood fencing around a freshly landscaped area to protect rose bushes – one of deer's favorite foods. First we placed 8 foot tall, 4x4 inch fence posts sunk into the ground 8 feet apart. Next we put three 1x6 inch fence boards horizontally, spaced 6 inches apart, between each post to create the bottom part of the fence; these fence boards go only to a height of 3 feet, so the fence does not appear as a tall barrier to the eye.

The next step is to string 1/8 inch galvanized wire between and through each upright fence post. Starting from the top fence board, measure 10 inches up and drill a 1/4 inch hole through each 4x4 fence post. Drill a second 1/4 inch hole 10 inches up from the first, and so on. Thread the galvanized wire through the holes to stretch from post to post, and secure at each end using 1 inch poultry staples. There should be at least 2 or 3 lines of wire.



1. Drill 1/2 inch holes through posts to thread the galvanized wire through the post

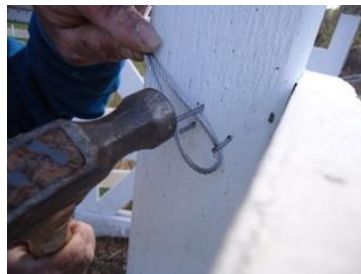


2. Galvanized cable can be found at most hardware stores



3. Thread the galvanized cable through the 1/2 inch holes in the posts.

4. Secure the cable at the ends with 1 inch poultry staples.



**The finished new fence:** *A new fence installed around a freshly landscaped area. Galvanized wire is strung between and through each post. This fence is 7 feet tall (yours can be higher if necessary), but doesn't appear a closed barrier to the eye.*

The second fencing method was used for an existing 4 foot tall wood fence that just wasn't tall enough to keep the hungry deer from coming in to graze on our fruit trees and landscaping. We wanted to extend the height of the fence without making it visually obtrusive. This made the 4 foot fence into a 7 foot tall fence.

At each corner, for stability, you will need to install a tall 4x4 wooden fence post (7 ft. of the post should be above the ground) to secure the wire. We drilled three 1/2 inch holes every 10 inches (starting from the top) in those end posts, threaded the cable through and secured it with 1 inch poultry staples.

We then mounted 3 foot long, 1/2 inch threaded rods onto the top of the existing posts. Here's how: First drill a 1/2 inch hole down into the center of the top of the fence post about 6 inches deep. Next screw the threaded rods into the top of the post (the threaded rod can be set with wood glue if it is too loose). Place a 1/2 inch flat washer with a 1/2 inch hex nut to secure the threaded rod onto the post. Then place three 1/2 inch wing nuts onto the threaded rod, each spaced 10 inches apart, starting from the top of the fence. Galvanized cable, 1/8 inch thick, is then strung from rod to rod, held up by the wing nuts.



*1. A 3 ft. x 1 in. threaded rod is set into the post with a 1/2 in. flat washer and 1/2 inch hex nut secured over the top to hold it.*



*2. Wing nuts are threaded onto the rod at 10 in. apart. The galvanized cable is strung along each rod and held up by the wing*



*3. Secure the cable at the ends with 1 inch poultry staples.*



*The finished fence: Threaded rods are set into the top of the posts with galvanized wire strung between each post. Wing nuts on each rod hold the wire up. The fence, originally 4 ft. tall, has been converted to 7 foot tall fence but you can build it as high as you like.*



**You really have to look closely to see the additional wire on this fence!**