Observing Deer Herd Damage on Your and Neighboring Land

Finding the damage that deer density may be causing to your property will help you decide what kinds of stewardship can benefit your property.

Clues of deer-related damage can include:

• There are few, or no, sapling trees (3-10 feet) in your woodlands and the ground level is essentially empty of native vegetation or very sparse. [**Upper Left**]

• Non-native invasive shrubs dominate the understory of your woodlands. [**Lower Left**]

• Your formal landscaping shrubs are browsed up to deer-head height. [**Upper right**]

• Annuals in your natural landscapes or gardens are stripped of buds, blooms and foliage at the top. [**Lower Right**]









While these are tell-tale indicators, it's important to remember that ecosystems are complex and there can be interrelated causes of imbalance and degradation in a habitat. If you're unsure whether you're seeing deer damage, ask for help. If you already work with a professional forester in New Jersey – or would like to start – he or she can walk your woodlands with you to consult. Local land conservation organizations may also be able to visit you, and online resources are also available. Perspectives may vary. Consultation is encouraged.



Envision what a healthy forest and garden is like without overabundant herds. There are dozens of side-by-side deer exclosure fences in New Jersey that show healthy forest returning [Left], when deer impact is minimized through exclosure, which imitates prior generations of much greater human hunting and animal predation.

Let's Find Balance for Our Forests, Farms and Families

Mission: To achieve natural balance in New Jersey by leading a deer stewardship movement for the people, wildlife and land we love.

Vision: A future where New Jersey's land, wildlife, and communities thrive in natural balance—stewarded by the people who call this place home

We collaborate to support stewardship of deer towards a balance with biological and cultural goals

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