# Methods of Addressing Deer-Related Concerns in New Jersey

**A Neutral, High-Level Review**

Methods differ in purpose: some seek to change deer abundance or reproduction; others seek to reduce a specific deer-related impact without necessarily changing population size. This overview describes the principal methods available or potentially available in New Jersey without recommending one approach over another.

**How to use this overview.** The categories describe the primary mechanism of each method; they do not rank effectiveness, cost, acceptability, animal-welfare effects, or suitability. Those factors depend on the local objective and implementation setting. Current permits, regulations and agency guidance should be checked before a community or landowner proceeds.

| Method | What it is | New Jersey status / implementation considerations |
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| **Population management — lethal** | | |
| **Regulated in-season hunting** | Harvest of deer by licensed hunters during state-established seasons, using lawful equipment and subject to zone-specific seasons, permits, bag limits and reporting requirements. | Available under New Jersey's regular hunting framework where lawful access exists. Property access, safety-zone requirements, municipal discharge rules and local land-use patterns can affect where hunting can occur. |
| **Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)** | A site-specific program that uses licensed hunters during existing permit seasons to take additional antlerless deer on approved properties. | Available to qualifying landowners or land managers in specified Deer Management Zones with restricted antlerless bag limits. Applications document the problem, management goal and prior efforts; approved properties receive a limited number of site-specific permits. |
| **Farmer Deer Depredation Permit** | A permit for eligible farmers experiencing deer damage that authorizes deer removal outside normal hunting seasons under permit conditions. | Available for qualifying farmland, including specified cultivated fields and tree farms. NJ Fish & Wildlife may inspect damage and conducts a safety inspection; participating agents must meet current licensing and firearms-identification requirements. |
| **Community-Based Deer Management Permit** | A state permit framework through which eligible public entities may | Municipalities, counties, airports and County Boards of Agriculture |

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| **(CBDMP): controlled hunting / authorized agents** | use alternative deer-control methods, including controlled hunting by selected agents or removal by contracted professionals. | may apply. Applications must document need, define a Special Deer Management Area, describe the plan, and receive NJ Fish & Wildlife review and Fish and Game Council approval. Costs are borne by the applicant. |
| **CBDMP: capture and euthanasia** | Capture of deer followed by euthanasia rather than shooting free-ranging deer. | NJ Fish & Wildlife identifies capture-and-euthanize as an alternative that may be considered where other methods are not feasible. It requires an approved CBDMP and an operating protocol. |
| **Population management — non-lethal** | | |
| **Surgical sterilization** | Capture and anesthesia of deer followed by a surgical procedure intended to prevent reproduction; animals are then released. | In New Jersey, fertility-control projects are treated as experimental research. They require a Special Permit to Inhibit Wildlife Reproduction; when used for population control, a CBDMP is also required. Property-access permissions and qualified personnel are part of the permitting process. |
| **Immunocontraception** | Use of a fertility-control vaccine or drug to reduce reproduction in treated deer, generally requiring animals to be individually treated and identified. | New Jersey requires a Special Permit to Inhibit Wildlife Reproduction; a population-control project also requires a CBDMP. NJ Fish & Wildlife currently identifies GonaCon-Deer as the fertility-control drug legal for use in free-ranging deer in the state and notes capture/injection and follow-up requirements. |
| **Conflict / impact management** | | |
| **Road-safety measures** | Measures directed at locations with deer-vehicle collisions, such as speed management, warning or dynamic signs, sight-line vegetation management, and fencing or crossing treatments. | Implemented through the responsible road or land-management authority. Selection is site-specific and generally depends on collision locations, road design, right-of-way conditions and maintenance needs. |
| **Exclusion fencing / individual plant protection** | Physical barriers intended to prevent deer access to a property, habitat area, crop, garden or individual tree or planting. | Can be used by public or private land managers subject to ordinary property, construction and access requirements. Design, height, |

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| | | gates, maintenance and the size of the protected area affect implementation. |
| **Landscape and planting practices** | Use of plant selection, planting design, repellents, motion-activated deterrents or targeted exclusion to reduce browsing of gardens and landscaped areas. | Generally implemented at the property or site level. Results depend on local deer use, plant species, maintenance and the combination of measures used. |
| **Feeding restrictions** | Rules or practices intended to reduce intentional supplemental feeding of deer. | May be addressed through property policies or local ordinances, subject to applicable state and local law. The method addresses an attractant or congregation source rather than directly removing deer. |
| **Tick-focused measures** | Measures directed at human exposure to ticks or tick abundance, including personal protection, property-level tick management, habitat modification and, where authorized, treatment approaches involving deer. | These measures target tick exposure rather than deer population size. The appropriate intervention depends on the tick species, disease concern, property setting, pesticide or wildlife rules, and the evidence for the particular treatment. |

DEER NEW JERSEY,

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***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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