

Deer GEAR



Trico Deer Repellent

Trico deer repellent spray, based on emulsified sheep fat, has proven effective at protecting young trees from deer browsing (see the winter 2023-4 issue of *Deer*). The downside, however, is that the white dye which the professional forestry version of the product contains, while helpful in ensuring the spray operator knows which trees and shrubs have already been treated, looks rather unsightly in gardens or on ornamental stock. While an alternative, more expensive, garden product exists without the white dye (Trico Garden) a further option is to adopt a technique that has been used by French wine growers to prevent deer browsing in vineyards. This involves using a proprietary insect lure stuffed with sheep wool which has been soaked in the professional Trico forestry product. Since it is the sheep scent which deters deer browsing, the lures act by releasing this scent around vulnerable vines.

We tested this approach both in a garden that had been subject to muntjac browsing in early spring, and on five year old tubed saplings in a nearby plantation that were vulnerable to browsing by red deer. Bush roses in the garden were dressed in the first week of April with lures containing

wool that had been saturated with the professional Trico product, while similar lures were attached to saplings situated along an obvious red deer track through the plantation. No further significant browsing was observed in either situation, although the fact that there was very little additional browsing in adjacent control areas suggests that the trial was somewhat inconclusive.

The lures themselves are very conspicuous however, and one has to question whether they are suitable for a garden, where the dedicated garden product is probably more appropriate. Likewise in a forestry setting, the cost of the lures at around £5 each would seem to be an unnecessary expense where the spray can be directly applied to the trees themselves. However, in a commercial nursery that is producing ornamental stock or Christmas trees, the use of lures containing sheep wool and Trico may well be a suitable strategy to prevent deer browsing without covering valuable ornamentals with white dye.

For more information visit:
www.prosprayers.co.uk



HORL 2 Knife sharpening system

A sharp knife is a critical tool that no deer stalker can be without. But sharpening a knife correctly is no easy matter, the key challenge being to maintain the correct angle between the blade and the sharpening surface.

Timo Horl, founder of the company which bears his family name, cracked that problem in the simplest and most revolutionary way. The Horl system consists of two parts: a magnetic support holds the knife blade firmly in position at precisely the correct angle, while a cylindrical diamond grinder is rolled across the face of the blade to sharpen the edge. Turn the roller around and you'll find that its other end has a ceramic honing disc which refines and smooths the ground edge to remove any burrs or roughness. The result is a perfectly sharpened edge in minutes.

The HORL 2 knife sharpening set, attractively manufactured in natural Black Forest oak or nut finish, requires only a smooth, level worktop on which to operate. Moreover, it is suitable for all knives, the strong magnetic support having on one end a 20° angle which is perfect for most conventional blades, including softer stainless or rust-resistant steel, and at the other a 15° angle for sharpening high carbon steel blades, Damascus knives or Japanese kitchen knives which are capable of holding a much sharper filigree edge.

This precision-made sharpening system, designed and manufactured in southern Germany, is a real delight to use and ensures a really professional job of knife sharpening every time.



RRP £159.00

For more information visit:
www.horl.com