Managing A Landscape with Deer
Restoring Coastal Forests
BARE ROOT TREE PLANTING TIPS

1. Planting in the spring can provide as the gardener
   needed trees.

6. Heel in bare-root seedlings if planting is delayed for more than a few days. If you need to postpone your planting operations for more than a few days, it is best to heel in the seedlings. Dig a trench in a shady location and spread out the seedlings in trench. Cover the seedlings with dirt and water them well.

For more planting tips, see references on page 7.

Protection

Damage by deer is the single largest obstacle to restoration of the North Shore coastal forest. Deer especially like to browse White cedar and white pine, two important components of the coastal forest. The population of deer on the North Shore, especially in late winter, can be overwhelming.

White pine seedling protected by five-foot galvanized fencing and T post.

TO FENCE OR NOT TO FENCE

Planting seedling trees on the North Shore requires strong, durable protection from deer. One solution is a wire cage, either for individual trees or for small groups. For a single seedling, you will need a "T-Post" or other sturdy post, six to eight feet of 5-foot or 6-foot galvanized fencing, a post pounder, and either wire or cable ties for binding. If the inside of the cage is large enough that a deer could jump in, you will need an eight-foot fence and 10-foot posts. Another solution is a fenced enclosure, which is a fenced area with at least 8-foot fencing.

White cedar trees in a fenced enclosure. Note lack of deer browsing.
Restoring Balance

Photo © Catherine Ravenscroft
How many deer?

Ecological Outcomes

**Recruitment (fawns/mile$^2$)**

**Density (deer/mile$^2$)**

- **$CC_D$**: Full complement of herbs, shrubs, seedlings. Full ground & shrub layer. Light browse impact on all seedling species.

- **$CC_R$**: Some shrub, herb, seedling species gone, limited presence of grass & ferns. Acceptable stocking of desired seedling spp.

- **$CC_{MSY}$**: Browse line developing, only browse resistant seedlings left. Lack of preferred shrubs & herbs. Grass & ferns begin to dominate

- **Crash**: Well-defined browse line, no shrubs or herbs, ferns and grass dominate, severe impact on browse-resistant seedling species.
How many deer?

Hunter Satisfaction

None

Tons!

Unsatisfied

Very Satisfied

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Fish and Wildlife Annual Budget
How many deer?
Deer-Car Collisions
How many deer? Animal Rights
Restoration – Management Strategies
Community Based Deer Management

Duluth city bow hunt deer harvest 2005-13

Source: Arrowhead Bowhunters Alliance
Citizen Input & Involvement

The public participation process for deer population goal setting has been designed to include input from anyone who has an interest in deer management. The process will provide opportunities for broad public input through public meetings as well as online and written questionnaires prior to convening a citizen advisory team for each goal block. Each block consists of multiple deer permit areas (DPAs) that have similar habitat types.

Citizen members of the teams that recommend goals for each block will be selected to represent the range of public interests, including hunting, wildlife viewing, natural resource management and local business interests. In addition to public input, DNR also is collecting representative data on public desires using hunter and landowner mail surveys administered by the University of Minnesota.

Participation Opportunities

Call for team member nominations: The nomination period for members to serve on one of 5 goal-setting blocks is now open. Nominations are due 4:30 pm on November 17, 2014. Members to serve on each of the five teams will be selected in January 2015. For more information and to submit an application, visit the 2015 Deer Advisory Teams page.

Additional participation opportunities will be listed here as information becomes available.
THIS SOUND FAMILIAR? "THE POPULATION HAS GROWN BEYOND THE CARRYING CAPACITY OF THEIR HABITAT. RESOURCE DECIMATION IS FUELING A FOOD AND WATER CRISIS. A TOUGH WINTER WILL BE HARD FOR MANY TO SURVIVE."

MAYBE WE SHOULD CULL THEIR HERD.

YOU'LL RUN INTO TROUBLE WITH THE BEARDLESS PERMITS.