

“Take Back Your Garden!”

Presented by: Julia Hofley – Julia’s Big Life
MGSOC – November 11, 2014

Outline:

- Determine which animal is doing the browsing
 - How to spot instigator browsing, and be proactive before it’s too late
 - Monitor microclimates carefully, they are the browsers first course
 - Planting and successfully harvesting vegetables and herbs
 - Developing a monthly repelling program for annuals and perennials
 - Protecting spring bulbs
 - Avoiding Buck Rub before it’s too late
 - Over winter protection for woodies and conifers
 - Changes in browsing behavior
-

Annual containers, bedding out

- Lay out newly purchased annuals or veggie starts on your lawn and spray them all together with repellent to avoid having to spray each one after planting. Saves time, money, and repetitive use thumb pain.
- Reapply on new growth as needed.
- Optional: use the granular formula by sprinkling into containers. Just make sure you don’t flood irrigate your pots when you water or the granules will wash over the edge and your planter will not be protected. Refresh application every 6 weeks.

Vegetable plots and herbs

- Spray flats of veggies or seedlings with Plantskydd prior to planting as stated above.
- Plantskydd can be reapplied up to 6 weeks prior to harvesting. For the last 6 weeks, hang panty hose socks or nylon bags of granular repellent at the top of trellises and tomato cages to keep browsers from stealing your bounty before you’re able to pick. Use granular formula on herbs (not the spray formula), because you harvest usually right after planting. Plantskydd is OMRI-approved organic.
- Sprinkle granular formula around vegetable plot edge heavily, and broadcast throughout center of plot. Reapply every 6 weeks.

Emerging perennials & bulbs

- Spray at plant base to keep small critters from eating newly emerging plants. They love delicate succulent foliage like tulips, hostas, liliun, etc.
- Some plants (garden phlox, asters, chrysanthemums, etc.) are better to cut back early in the growing season to control their height and stagger their blooming time. If the browsers get to them first, they just did your initial pruning. Spray immediately and keep all new growth sprayed, including budding period and bloom time. You will still be able to see the flower show later in the season.

Hostas: The Filet Mignon of the Garden

Spray newly emerging hostas as they 'cone up' in Spring. Look at your microclimates first as the rabbits know where they are and that is their first choice restaurant in spring. (South or west side of your home, or a tree, fence or boulders, near the dryer vent, fireplace wall, where the snow melts first in your yard, warm side of a hill, etc...) The succulent leaves are very desirable for badly needed moisture for all browsers at this time of year. Walk your gardens as often as possible to watch what comes up each day and protect it immediately. After the leaves have opened spray them again on the undersides. Use a short shrub rake or child's rake to lift leaves then spray the undersides. It doesn't matter to the animals which side PS is on, just that the smell is in the area. Spraying on the underside avoids the red spray from gathering in the veins on the leaves and also make sure you spray from the back of the bed because that is usually how the browsers look and feed in your garden. The third spraying is when the flowers develop later. If you want to enjoy your flowers spray them as they develop and rise above the plant. Usually 3 sprayings on Hostas are enough in our garden for an entire season.

Lilium: Everyone wants the Lily!

- Spray newly emerging tips (or use granules), then when they leaf out, spray all leaves to keep bunnies from knocking down the stem with a "Timber! Chomp" in order to eat the remaining leaves up the stem. Spray unopened buds to keep deer from coming through and popping them into their mouths.
- Must spray bulbs in the fall at planting time to keep voles from devouring them over the winter underground, and squirrels and chipmunks from digging them up between planting and when the snow flies.

Woodies

- Particularly vulnerable in late winter—new buds are forming just when you think you might have made it through the winter un-browsed.
- Spray in fall to protect overwinter, spray with new growth in spring, and reapply as needed.
- Make sure to also spray root flare prior to winter to discourage vole and rabbit damage.
- Spray prior to your area's buck rub season.

Fall bulbs

- When planting fall bulbs, lay them on the grass all together and spray them with repellent. Let dry for 15 minutes, sprinkle granular in the hole, put sprayed bulb into hole, back fill soil and then lightly top dress granular repellent over planting area. This will keep critters from digging up bulbs right after you plant them or voles from eating them during winter under the ground. Apply granular on top of mulch, not under it. Reapply every 6 weeks or until the leaves fall or snow flies. If you have a vole problem, plant as above, top dress with granular formula, but wait until the ground is frozen to apply mulch.

Broad-leaved plant application

- To avoid red spray on leaves, spray repellent on the underside of any large-leaved plants or broad-leaved plants like rhodies, hydrangeas, hostas, etc. The repellent is blood-based with veggie oil as a binder; it will show less on the underside of leaves.

Conifers

- Treating pine seedlings with Plantskydd during bud flush is not recommended. Before or after bud flush is fine. When spraying, needles of conifers will darken temporarily after treatment but will fade in 18-36 hours. Full coverage with a light spray is best, not dripping wet.
 - Spray the RTU or mixed powder concentrate on all conifers and broadleaved evergreens once in autumn as the plant goes dormant. The plant will be protected all winter (up to 6 months) until new growth in spring begins.
 - Before spraying plants with Plantskydd: It is important that the plant is dry and that it will stay dry for 24 hours after spraying, and that the outside temperature is above freezing. This will give the formula the time it needs to become rain fast.
 - Make sure to also spray on root flare and trunk.
 - Spray prior to your area's buck rub season.
-

Plantskydd Formula and Usage Tips:

Plantskydd is made of blood, vegetable oil and water. The blood emits an odor that makes the potential browser think there is a predator nearby and that the area is unsafe. Unlike other repellents, it does not have to be tasted to repel. It must be applied to dry plants that will stay dry for 24 hours and the outside temperature must be above freezing. How long between re-spraying all depends on how fast the plant grows and that is often weather triggered. (See above for my suggested use for specific plants.)

Plantskydd comes in a granular formula that you sprinkle on the ground around the plant and it lasts for 6 weeks. The Ready-To-Use (RTU) formula should be sprayed as stated above and on new growth. The same applies for the powder concentrate that you mix with water and use your own sprayer. One box of powder concentrate equals 4 RTU 1-quart bottles, and thus it is the BEST value. The powder concentrate and the granular formulas do not have an odor to humans. The RTU does emit an odor for a day at most.

Being made of blood, we suggest you take care when spraying foundation plantings and to not aim at your house, boulders, walls, pavers, etc. when spraying. Use a flattened box or trunk liner sheet as a shield between the plants and the surface you don't want sprayed when spraying. Spray in the evening or early morning so the plants are cooled down. Avoid midday spraying during the hot months. Once you mix the powder concentrate into a solution, use it within 2 days. Once you open a

RTU bottle, use within 3 months. Granular and unmixed powder concentrate will last for years in storage.

Clean your sprayer out completely after each use, and always use a clean sprayer. Plantskydd is thick and sticks to plants for a long time and that is good, but the formula will clog your sprayer if you don't keep it clean. Continually shake sprayer to keep liquid mixed as you spray.

When using the granular formula:

- After application, don't overflow your containers when watering or else you will wash out the Plantskydd and it won't work.
- Watch your mowers and blowers and make sure you (or your lawn crew) don't blow off the granular you just put down on a veggie patch, flower bed, etc.
- Apply granular formula on top of mulch, not beneath.

Volume Information:

- 1 Qt. RTU = treats approx. 100 plants 1 ft. high
- 1.3 Gallon RTU = treats 400-600 plants 1 ft. high
- 1 lb. Powder Concentrate = treats 200-300 plants 1 ft. high (equiv. of 4-1 qts.)
- 2.2 lb. Powder Concentrate = treats 440-660 plants
- 1 lb. Granular Shaker = treats approx. 600 sq. ft.
- 3 lb. Granular Shaker Bag = treats approx. 1800 sq. ft.
- 7 lb. Granular Shaker Bag = treats approx. 4200 sq. ft.
- 20 lb. Granular Shaker Bag = treats approx. 12000 sq. ft.

Plants Browsers tend to Avoid:

Astilbes	Peonies	Salvias	Juniper
Ferns	Mint	Epimedium	Society Garlic
Hellebores	Nepeta	Sage	Lily of the Valley
Allium	Lavendar	Boxwood	European Ginger
Sweet Woodruff	Candytuft	S. Squill	Fritillaria
Daffodils	Chionodoxa	Artemisia	Tiarella
Monkshood	Thyme	Melianthus	

Julia Hofley

www.plantskydd.com

Julia@juliasbiglife.com

Plantskydd is carried at: English Gardens, Auburn Oaks, Telly's/Goldner Walsh, Uncle Luke's, Bogie Lake Greenhouse, Christians Greenhouse, Sherwood Forest, Beverly Hills ACE and many other locations. Check www.plantskydd.com for a complete list of retail locations in Michigan.