



Rockin E Gardening Handouts

Tips and Suggestions for 'Year-Round' Gardening

1201 West 500 South Woods Cross, UT

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Deer Repellents

Have you ever watched out your back window as a Doe and her two fawns saunter into your garden? They are so cute, the kids would love to watch them walk through the yard. They look so sweet; they wouldn't hurt anything. You watch as one of the fawns takes a bite of the lamb's ear growing on the edge of the garden: hasn't he learned that deer do not like plants with fuzzy leaves? Lamb's ear was on the list of plants deer will not eat. The other fawn takes one bite out of your prize pumpkin and then strolls over to look at the bright red tomato. Meanwhile, the doe devours all of your pretty pansies, pulling each plant out by the roots as she gulps them down. Now all of a sudden these cute deer are not as welcome as they were a minute ago. Part of you wants to run for a camera while another part of you wants to look for the shotgun.



Deer Controls Fences - Cages - Repellents - Deer Proof Plants

One deer can eat up to ten pounds of food a day; imagine what a whole herd can do! In winter they'll turn to any source of vegetation to satisfy their appetites. They can be more aggressive and bold, wreaking havoc on trees and shrubs they never touched in warmer weather.



In general, damage from browsing is most severe when snow cover or extreme cold has reduced food availability. Another problem time is early spring when young succulent growth of ornamentals provides attractive browse before other spring growth is available. When food is in short supply, deer will browse even the most undesirable plants. Even if they don't eat the entire plant, they have already damaged it by browsing.

If an adequate supply of natural native plants are available to eat, deer are less likely to browse ornamental plantings. When the natural food supply is low, few ornamental plants will be resistant.

Even before the weather turns really cold, deer can cause damage to trees. Fall is mating season. Bucks become aggressive and the new antlers they've grown, over the summer, itch. They scratch by rubbing their antlers on tree trunks – even those they don't like to eat – and can cause serious damage to trees.

During winter months, a deer's diet changes. Instead of the grass and leaves they favor during summer, deer have to turn to woody plants in winter, which means your evergreens are at the greatest risk. Plants that drop their leaves are not as appealing to deer as those with large green leaves.

Bucks can roam 100 miles or more, but Fawns and Does do not migrate. A Doe usually stays within the same three to four square miles for her entire life. That means once a doe finds an easy food source in your yard, she'll be back again and again, season after season, and you can bet she'll bring her friends and fawns with her.

Unfortunately there is not a good solution to the deer problem. The only 100% control is to use physical barriers such as covering the entire plant, installing seven to eight foot tall fences around the entire yard, or putting individual cages around each plant. Some gardeners have used chicken wire, shade cloth, burlap, or



nylon netting to build their cages.

Dozens of repellents have been tried by inventive and very desperate gardeners. They all work, for a short time, but deer get accustomed to them, and then they stop working. The trick is to switch repellents occasionally.

Deer Repellents You Can Try

1. Ultra Sonic Pest Chasers.

These electronic devices use ultrasound waves to repel many different types of pests.



2. Motion sensors can activate a light, a sprinkler, or a loud radio, (be careful or your neighbors might not be neighborly very long).

3. Dogs are a good way to keep deer out, but only if the dog is fairly large, noisy, and has free rein of the yard.

4. Blood Meal and Milorganite are two fertilizers that have an odor deer do not like. They have shown some good results. Sprinkle them lightly around the yard every week or two.



5. Human Hair, Chunks of Soap, Fabric Softener Sheets, Garlic Spray, an Egg and Water Mixture, or Cayenne Pepper are household repellents that tend to repel deer.

6. Commercial repellents are available such as Liquid Fence, Repels All, Hot Pepper Wax, Plantskydd, Deer Away, Shake Away, Deer Stopper, and many more.



7. Predator Urines: Wolf, Mountain Lion, Coyote, or human.

8. Homemade repellents. Make your own concoctions.

9. Another possible choice to control deer is to use "Deer-Proof" plants, but don't get your hopes up.

The Utah Division of Wildlife, Sunset Western Garden Encyclopedia, and several other publications list plants that 'deer will not eat'.

The problem is that deer cannot read, and many of the plants on those lists have been munched on by deer in this area. Deer are browsers, which means that they will try eating most anything at least once, even if they don't like it, and just spit it out. Deer are also very interested in any new plants in the yard; they try them, even if they are not supposed to like them.



Predator Urines

In the wild, the relationship between predator and prey defines the daily routine of every animal alive. The predator stalks its prey to satisfy its most basic need for food and the prey seeks to avoid the predator at all costs to ensure its own survival. It is the law of the wild. In this life and death game of hide and seek, the scent of urine is often the only warning a prey has that a predator is nearby. This scent of predator urine triggers a primal reaction in the prey.



For centuries hunters have used animal urines to manipulate the movement of prey in such a way as to improve their chances for hunting success. Based upon these traditional uses, the "**Leg Up Company**" has developed 100% Predator Urines as deception scents, to deceive animals into believing a predator is very close by. These urines effectively camouflage human scent, and deceive prey, by creating the illusion that the predator is active in the immediate area.

Wild animals instinctively react to the perceived threat of danger. By using the urine to mark a perimeter, like these predators do in the wild, you are able to replicate the predator-prey response in each animal.

We have five predator urines available; **Wolf, Mtn. Lion, Coyote, Bobcat, and Fox**. The predator urines come in an eight ounce bottle. Simply apply the urine to the cotton in a dispenser and place these dispensers in several areas in your yard. Many gardeners have told us that they have had very good success in their yards.

Coyote urine repels Deer, Rabbits, Raccoons, Skunks, and Squirrels, and many other Rodents.

Fox urine repels Moles, Mice, Rabbits, and many other Rodents.

Bobcat urine repels Moles, Mice, Muskrat, and many other rodents.

Wolf urine repels Moose, Mule Deer, Bear.

Mt. Lion urine creates the realistic impression that Mt. Lions are in the immediate area.

Take your pick, depending on what animals are bothering your yard. Please let us know about your success or failure.



Deer Fencing

Keeping deer out of the garden is a challenge anywhere that deer live and people have gardens. Fencing is one solution, however large mule deer have been known to clear fences as high as ten feet. Deer will also leap over fences they wouldn't normally attempt when they are startled or frightened, so deer fencing does not always work.



Usually deer need to be able to see through a fence, or feel that they have room to turn and move after jumping, before they will leap over fences or other obstacles. They cannot, from a standing start, leap over a three foot fence, pause, and then jump across another three foot fence, and land safely on the other side.

Unless they are frightened or startled, they don't jump backwards or jump sideways.

Knowing this, you may try a



couple of different options.

1. Wooden fences. They cannot see what is on the other side so they will sometimes hesitate to make the leap.

2. Fences slanted 30 degrees toward the garden (they are sometimes effective because the deer must jump both 'over' and 'across' the fence)



3. A double fence - two 3' to 4' fences placed three feet apart, or close enough that a deer doesn't have enough room to turn around.

Deer often slowly approach the outer fence, get to within a foot, stop, sniff the air and curl their upper lip, then turn around and walk away.



Deer cannot simultaneously perform a high jump, and a long jump. They are wary of getting caught inside small spaces.

Remarkably, deer are smart enough to instinctively know they can't jump the horizontal distance between the two fences, and they also know that they don't want to get caught between the two sets of fences. Also, they are not able to reason out that if they backed off and got a running start they could actually make the leap successfully.

To build a double fence, drive 4' stakes in about a foot deep, in a double row approximately three feet apart. Put a set of stakes every fifteen to twenty feet, all the way around the area to be protected. Make sure the inner fence is about the same height as the outer fence.

It doesn't really matter what the fence is made of. What matters is that the deer can't turn around inside it. Some people have made fences of Rope, Twine, Baling Wire, PVC pipe, deer fencing, and wood.



These fences are not foolproof. If a deer blunders into the fence, or runs right through the fence, it'll get tangled in wires and probably pull several sets of posts right out of the ground.

Don't just throw your hands up in defeat, try rebuilding the fence a little differently, or try something new.

Other Sources of Information

<http://wildlife.utah.gov/habitat/deer-browse.php>

<http://www.crittercontrol.com/services/utah/deerdamagedeerpblems.html>

http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/ND/deer_fact_sheet.pdf

http://icwdm.org/handbook/mammals/mam_d25.pdf

<http://www.wildlifedamagecontrol.net/pdf/deerbushes.pdf>

http://wildlife.utah.gov/publications/pdf/2011_mule_deer.pdf

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1557.pdf>

<http://www.clcdesign.com/info/deer-resistant-plant-list.pdf>

<http://pss.uvm.edu/ppp/articles/deerplants.html>

<http://www.myohiolandscape.com/deer-resistant-plants.cfm>

<http://migarden.msu.edu/uploads/files/e3042.pdf>

'Deer Resistant' - Not 'Deer Proof' Plants

Whether deer will target a particular plant variety depends a lot on their habits, their nutritional needs, the plant's palatability, the time of year, weather conditions, geographic areas, and the availability of alternative foods.



Certain smells of plants may either attract or repel deer. Other times deer just may want to sample the newest additions to your landscape, no matter what kind of plant it is. They may eat a newly planted shrub and not even look at the same plant in another area of the yard. You just cannot out guess what a deer will eat on any particular day.

Deer are creatures of habit, and previous movement patterns or foraging experiences can determine where and when damage may occur. One plant species may be rarely damaged in one area, but highly preferred in another area due to the differences in deer pressure and other physical factors.

In general, damage from browsing is most severe when snow cover, or extreme cold, has reduced food availability. Another problem time is early spring, when the young succulent growth of ornamentals provides attractive food, before other spring growth is available.

To help increase the effectiveness of plant selection, determine the main entryway, or pathway of the deer and make it uninviting as possible. If you have plants that are occasionally damaged, be sure to keep those plants sprayed with a repellent. Deer are creatures of habit. Find their path and try to change it; make it not appealing to the deer.

Use deer repelling shrubs and flowers. If the odor of the repellent plants is stronger than that of the susceptible plants, the deer may not find the plants you are trying to disguise.

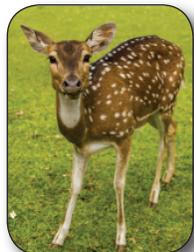
Hide susceptible plants from the deer. Deer won't go where they can't see past, see through, or see over. Plant border hedges or large plants to hide smaller susceptible plants under.

Keep border grasses cut down and keep edibles picked up. If there is tall grass, the deer are encouraged to make beds. If fruit, nuts, or unharvested vegetables are left on the ground, the deer will find it hard to resist entering the landscape.

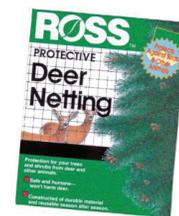
When food is in short supply, deer will browse even the most undesirable plants. Under such conditions, combine damage control measures, along with careful plant selection. Damage control measures include both repellents and physical barriers (fencing).

A few shrubs and trees that deer seem 'not to enjoy', but will 'still eat occasionally' are listed below. You will notice that many of these plants are toxic, have rough or bitter foliage, or have a strong odor that repels deer.

- Amelanchier (Serviceberry)
- Arctostaphylos uva-ursi (Bearberry)
- Aronia melanocarpa (Black Chokeberry)
- Berberis (Barberry)
- Buddleia (Butterfly bush)
- Buxus (Boxwood)
- Caryopteris (blue mist spirea)
- Chrysothamnus species (Rabbit Brush)
- Cotinus coggygria (Smoke tree)
- Cornus sericea/stolonifera Red Osier Dogwood
- Cotoneaster spp. (Cotoneaster)
- Deutzia gracilis (Deutzia)
- Forsythia spp. (Forsythia)
- Hesperaloe paviflora (Red Yucca)
- Hibiscus syriacus (Rose of Sharon)
- Ilex species (Holly)
- Juniperus chinensis -(not other species)
- Kolkwitzia amabilis (Beauty Bush)
- Mahonia aquifolium (Oregon Grape)



- Nandina domestica (Heavenly Bamboo)
- Picea pungens (Colorado Spruce)
- Physocarpus (Ninebark)
- Perovskia (Russian Sage)
- Potentilla (Cinquefoil)
- Privet species
- Rhamnus (Common Buckthorn)
- Rhododendron species
- Rhus (Sumac)
- Spirea spp. (Spirea)
- Syringa spp. (Lilac)
- Tamarix ramosissima (Tamarix)
- Taxus (Yew)
- Viburnum species
- Wisteria species
- Yucca filamentosa



There are no deer resistant trees and shrubs that are 100% deer proof. These plants are moderately resistant, however some damage may still occur. Many of these trees and shrubs have toxic, rough, or bitter foliage, or they have a strong odor that repels deer, but the bark may still be damaged by bucks rubbing their antlers, even though they do not eat the plants. Trunk protective tubing, or another way of protecting trunks, may be needed.

- Aesculus hippocastanum (Horsechestnut)
- Albizia julibrissin (Mimosa)
- Amelanchier (Serviceberry)
- Betula (Birch)
- Cedrus deodora (Deodar Cedar)
- Cornus kousa (Kousa Dogwood)
- Fagus sylvatica (European Beech)
- Fraxinus (Green Ash)
- Ginkgo biloba (Maidenhair Tree)
- Gleditsia triacanthos (Honey Locust)
- Larix deciduata (European Larch)
- Picea abies (Norway Spruce)
- Picea glauca (White Spruce)
- Picea glauca Densata (Black Hills Spruce)
- Picea pungens 'Nidiformis' (Bird's Nest Spruce)
- Pinus nigra (Austrian Pine, Black Pine)
- Pinus sylvestris (Scotch Pine)
- Pseudotsuga menziesii (Douglas Fir)
- Quercus (Oak)
- Salix matsudana toruosa (Corkscrew Willow)
- Taxodium distichum (Bald Cypress)

Don't Be Too Surprised when your 'Deer Resistant Plants' get eaten - Deer will usually try everything at least once!



Perennial Flowers

Deer avoid plants with a strong fragrance, irritating textures, or plants that upset their stomachs. If deer are starving, there are no perennial flowers that are completely deer proof.

Soapwort, Columbine, Artemisia, Campanula, Salvia greggii, Centaurea, Bearded Iris, Candytuft, Cerastrium, Dusty Miller, Coreopsis, Most Fern varieties, Garlic Chives, Dianthus, Sedum, Foxglove, Santolina, Hibiscus, Coneflower, Chrysanthemum, Yarrow, Russian Sage, Delphinium, Lamb's Ear, Gailardia, Geum, Monarda, Coral Bells, Poppies, Veronica, Obedient Plant, Salvia, Rudbeckia, Ornamental grasses, Allium, Cannas, Colchicum, Fritallaria, Galanthus, Hyacinth, Leucocym, Narcissus (Dafodil), Pushkinia, Scilla.

A deer proof garden may not be totally possible, but this list of deer resistant flowers can give you hope to have a beautiful flower garden.

Annual Flowers

Ageratum, Cleome, Datura, Salvia, Morning Glory, Nicotiana, Marigolds, Snapdragons, Periwinkles, Zinnias, Amarantha, Euryops, Lantana

This is not a complete list but it will give you a few ideas as you start planning your 'Deer Resistant' gardens. Everybody's List is Different, and some may even Contradict each other.



Deer Repellents?



Homeowners, gardeners, professional landscapers and commercial growers have discovered Liquid Fence® Deer & Rabbit Repellent Concentrate! stops deer and rabbit damage. Unlike other deer and rabbit repellents that require the animals to browse to be effective, Liquid Fence Deer & Rabbit Repellent Concentrate works on scent, so deer and rabbits don't even have to take a bite to be repelled. Because the animals' natural aversion to this scent will never diminish, Liquid Fence Deer & Rabbit Repellent Concentrate!

DOES NOT have to be rotated with other repellent brands.



Plantskydd offers plant protection against: Deer, Elk, Moose, Rabbit, Hares, Voles, Squirrels, Chipmunks, Mountain Beaver, Opossum and other herbivores. Plantskydd works by emitting an odor that animals associate with predator activity. Research has proven that odor-based repellents (Plantskydd) are more effective than other repellent systems; where the animal needs to taste treated plants before being repelled. Animals avoid plants before they bite—not after! Its long-term effectiveness is attributable to the tenacity of its 100% natural, vegetable oil binder in sticking to plants—even under severe snow/rainfall conditions: up to 6 months over winter; 3-4 months in summer.



All natural ingredients but repulsive to vermin and other undesirables. Repels three ways, by sense of touch, taste and smell. This is the most comprehensive animal repellent on the market. Triggers the genetic and biological fear and flight responses in animals. Protects plants and property, including structures, for up to 2 months per application. Rain fast after 6 hours. May be used around edibles. This all natural product is made from garlic, dried blood, whole egg solids, clove, fish oil, onion and wintergreen. It is environmentally safe and biodegradable.



In the wild, the relationship between predator and prey defines the daily routine of wildlife in your backyard or the deepest wilderness. The predator marks its territory with urine and stalks its prey. Pest animals like deer, nuisance coyotes, rats, mice, squirrels, skunks etc. react to the marking scent of their predators by seeking to avoid those predators at all costs. It is the law of the wild. In this life and death game of hide and seek, the scent of urine is often the only warning a prey has that a predator is nearby. By stimulating that powerful genetic fear reaction, Predator Urine is the best way to keep unwanted animals away and out of your yard. Nature's own repellent!



Can be used to discourage deer, moose and elk from devastating plants (including gardens, shrubs, flowers and trees), bedding down and rubbing against tree trunks. With an abundant food supply and protection from the elements, deer will forage and feed leading to crop loss and other plant damage. To prevent further home and garden harm, apply Messina's Deer Stopper to key areas. Our humane and safe Messina's Deer Stopper II creates a sensory barrier that works by smell and taste and can be applied every 30 days regardless of weather or watering. It is pleasant to use, dries clear and odor free and is safe to use around fruits and vegetables.



Protects gardens and valuable landscaping, can last up to 2 months. Effective in all seasons. Does not harm plants or animals. The unique blend of ingredients causes a mild irritation in the animal's nasal passages. When an animal touches, tastes or smells this product, this irritation triggers the natural instinct to escape, and the animal simply leaves. This product provides a powerful scent/taste repellent that animals find unpleasant and irritating. For application directly on fruits, vegetables and root crops. Also great for flowers, ornamentals and grasses. Reapply if frequent rains occur during the first month after application.

Thank you for shopping at O&L Garden Center.

Homemade Deer Repellents

Besides various commercial deer repellents available, many homeowners have devised their own deer remedies.

As with all homemade remedies, sometimes they work, sometimes they don't.

Dial Soap, Irish Spring Soap, or Lifebuoy Soap. Drill a hole in the bar and hang it with fishing line. Hang one bar from each small tree or every 3 feet on large trees.

Human hair or urine, coyote or wolf urine, moth balls, bone tar oil, rancid grease, feather meal (dried chicken feathers), dried blood or blood meal. These can be put alone, or in combination in a nylon stocking, mesh bag, or plastic bag with holes about 3 feet off the ground.

Fabric softener cloths can be hung every 3 feet. Also ammonia-soaked rags are sometimes used.

Homemade remedies can be made from a wide variety of household products. If you find one that works, keep it up and you may actually keep the deer away. However, don't be surprised if your remedy stops working. You can try something new, but remember the only sure way to keep the deer away is by using physical barriers or fences.



Try Something Different For Deer & Animals

Deer Gard Silent Electronic Deer Repellent Device

Electronic Deer Repellent

- Built-in infrared motion sensor activates when pests move into the repellent's coverage zone
- Continuous or motion-sensor operation settings
- Adjustable frequency for other pests
- Electronic deer repellent
- Ultrasonic (silent to humans)
- Easy to install - mounts anywhere with keyhole slots



Humane, effective, maintenance-free ultrasonic electronic **deer repellent** keeps deer away from your property without messy or expensive chemical solutions.

Deer Repellent Coverage: Up to 4,000 square feet Deer Repellent Pests: Deer, rats, rodents, dogs, cats, squirrels

Deer Repellent Usage: Garden, farm, crops, yard, highway, roads, fields, runways, nurseries

Yard Gard Silent Electronic Animal Repellent Device

- Built-in infrared motion sensor activates when pests move into the repellent's coverage zone
- Continuous or motion-sensor operation settings
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Humane, effective, maintenance-free ultrasonic electronic animal repellent keeps deer and animals away from your property without messy or expensive chemical solutions. Repellent Coverage: Up to 4,000 square feet

Balcony Gard Silent Electronic Bird Repellent Device

Designed for residential & small area use, this low-profile electronic bird repeller uses quiet ultrasonic sounds to evict annoying birds from your deck, patio, balcony, or any other outdoor area around the home. The Balcony Guard is a cost-effective, easy solution to your pest bird problem.

Balcony Guard utilizes ultrasonic sound waves to efficiently and effectively frighten, annoy, and intimidate birds and other wildlife within its 900 sq. ft. range. Birds don't like this at all and will stay away. Ultrasonic means that it is virtually "silent to humans", so you can effectively get rid of birds while maintaining a comfortable, enjoyable, bird-free environment for yourself.

***Provides small area coverage up to 900 square feet.**

for more information

<http://www.bird-x.com/balcony-guard-p-89.html>

<http://www.bird-x.com/yardgard-p-40.html>

<http://www.bird-x.com/deergard-deer-repellent-p-45.html>



Deer Resistant NOT Deer Proof

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- Perovskia (Russian Sage)
- Physocarpus (Ninebark)
- Picea pungens (Colorado Spruce)
- Potentilla species (Cinquefoil)
- Privet species
- Rhamnus (Common Buckhorn)
- Rhododendron species

- Rhus (Sumac)
- Spiraea spp. (Spiraea)
- Syringa spp. (Lilac)
- Taxus (Yew)
- Yiburnum species
- Wisteria species
- Yucca filamentosa

If Deer are Hungry - or Starving - They Will Eat Anything.

There are no deer resistant trees and shrubs that are 100% deer proof. These plants are moderately resistant, however some damage may still occur. Many of these trees and shrubs have toxic, rough, or bitter foliage, or they have a strong odor that repels deer, but the bark may still be damaged by bucks rubbing their antlers, even though they do not eat the plants. Trunk protective tubing, or another way of protecting trunks, may be needed.

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- Cedrus deodora (Deodar Cedar)
- Cornus kousa (Kousa Dogwood)
- Fagus sylvatica (European Beech)
- Fraxinus (Green Ash)
- Ginkgo biloba (Maidenhair Tree)
- Gleditsia triacanthos (Honey Locust)
- Larix decidata (European Larch)
- Picea abies (Norway Spruce)
- Picea glauca (White Spruce)
- Picea glauca Densata (Black Hills Spruce)
- Picea pungens 'Nidiformis' (Bird's Nest Spruce)
- Pinus Nigra (Austrian Pine, Black Pine)
- Pinus sylvestris (Scotch Pine)
- Pseudotsuga menziesii (Douglas Fir)
- Quercus (Oak)
- Salix matsudana torulosa (Corkscrew Willow)
- Taxodium distichum (Bald Cypress)

Perennial Flowers

Deer avoid plants with a strong fragrance, irritating textures, or plants that upset their

stomachs. If deer are starving, there are no perennial flowers that are completely deer proof.

- Soapwort, Columbine, Artemisia, Campanula, Salvia greggii, Centaurea, Bearded Iris, Candytuft, Cerastium, Dusky Miller, Coreopsis, Most Fern varieties, Garlic Chives, Dianthus, Sedum, Foxglove, Santolina, Hibiscus, Coneflower, Chrysanthemum, Yarrow, Russian Sage, Delphinium, Lamb's Ear, Galathea, Gamm, Monarda, Coral Bells, Peppies, Veronica, Obedient Plant, Salvia, Rubbeckia, Ornamental grasses, Allium, Cannas, Colchicum, Fritillaria, Galanthus, Hyacinth, Leucodium, Narcissus (Daffodil), Pushkinia, Scilla.

A deer proof garden may not be totally possible, but this list of deer resistant flowers can give you hope to have a beautiful flower garden.

Annual Flowers

- Ageratum, Cleome, Datura, Salvia, Morning Glory, Nicotiana, Marigolds, Snapdragon, Periwinkles, Zinnias, Amarantha, Euryops, Lantana

This is not a complete list but it will give you a few ideas as you start planning your 'Deer Resistant' gardens. Every List is Different and some Contradict each other. **Don't Be Too Surprised when your 'Deer Resistant Plants' get eaten - Deer will usually try everything at least once!**



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