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### **Excluding Rabbits**

As vegetation availability declines going in to winter, rabbits and other wildlife need to eat. Often, that comes at the expense of small trees and shrubs. To avoid the frustration of having your hard work sacrificed to feed them, now is a great time to work on excluding rabbits and other pests from those new plantings.

One of the most effective exclusion solutions is one-inch mesh chicken wire or a similar barrier at least two feet tall. It can be removed come spring – or left for an extended period of time, so long as it's monitored and will be removed before it constricts the tree's trunk.

Don't want to mess with physical barriers? Plastic tree wraps might be a possibility, though they won't likely be as effective as the wire mesh and will need to be appropriately anchored. Repellants are also a possibility so long as they are reapplied after a rain.

Landscape and windbreak plantings take a lot of work to get started. Plan now to protect them so you aren't replanting again next year.