

Horticulture professionals, home gardeners, foresters & others...

Success Stories



PROFESSIONAL GROWER

During the growing season, for regular interval spraying, professional growers can optimize Plantskydd by testing various dilution rates using more water and applying at different frequencies e.g., every 2-6 weeks — depending on growth rate and level of browse pressure.

June Hutson, Missouri Botanical Garden



Photo courtesy of Mo Botanical Garden

June Hutson, supervisor of the Kemper Demonstration Gardens at the Missouri Botanical Garden, has worked at the facility for 27 years in horticulture, currently as a field supervisor. She manages 8 acres of the 79 acre facility, which features 23 distinct themed residential-scale gardens.

Hutson claims what is most difficult about her management position is “keeping the gardens in pristine conditions at all times.” She notes that having rabbits and squirrels nibbling away at the displays does not make her job easier. The animals are attracted by tasty treats, such as green beans, basil, cone flowers, balloon flowers and any species of violet.

The facility staff have had to be vigilant in watching for any signs of damage. This has been possible through “constant observation” and treating vulnerable plants prone to rabbit damage with Plantskydd. When the directions are followed correctly, Hutson says animals will not return to

the treated plant.

“The most notable reward [of effective plant protection] is that no animal is harmed and gardening *with* nature may be a possibility. Because growing plants is our business, and the public looks towards us to solve all [gardening] problems, we are always on point. Our gardens demonstrate how plants can be eaten by animals, but it is up to us to show methods to control such activity.”

~ September 2003 ~

LANDSCAPING

Landscapers find Plantskydd to be very effective in protecting flowers, shrubs, ornamentals and seedlings that are subject to browse damage. This 100% natural animal repellent is proven effective in deterring browse damage by: deer, rabbits, elk, moose, opossum.

Jana Otis, Reynolds Plantation

Jana Otis, Landscape Horticulturalist and Manager at Reynolds Plantation, has the daunting tasks of managing landscape maintenance and improvements on the stunning facility. Reynolds, an upscale resort located between Atlanta and Augusta, Georgia, is an 8,000 acre golf and lake community boasting more than 50 miles of shoreline on beautiful Lake Oconee. Otis’ passion for plants originates from her childhood. “I got my first real job in a garden center and knew that was the field I wanted to study.”

Otis describes how a growing white deer population calls Reynolds Plantation home. “In the State of Georgia, the overpopulation of deer has become a serious problem,” she explains. Not only does Otis and staff have to worry about deer, but armadillos and beavers are also known to damage plants on the property.

Challenged by such diverse problems, Reynolds Plantation has had to use three different methods of plant protection — physical barriers, animal repellents and occasionally culling the herd. “The repellent we have found most effective is the product Plantskydd,” says Otis. “We have tried just about all of the other products currently on the market and Plantskydd has worked the best by far. It has been very effective on the ornamentals, keeping browsing at a minimum.”



Photo courtesy of Reynolds Plantation

As reflected in the radiant landscape at Reynolds Pantation, Otis and her team have done a remarkable job managing the botanical beauty at the facility. “Being able to have blooming plants in the winter, and all year long is one of the best rewards of effective plant protection.”

~ October 2003 ~

Heidi Fastabin, Heidi’s Garden Designs

Teacher, landscaper, king-crab fisherwoman, designer, gardener extraordinaire! Master Gardener Heidi Fastabin has been wowing home-owners across Astoria, Oregon for over 12 years with her unique landscape and cut flower garden designs.

Her design work has not gone without certain challenges though. She notes the deer and elk populations in the State have caused the greatest difficulty in making manifest her designs from paper, to seed, to plant. Albeit beautiful to look at, Heidi emphasizes how the wildlife “can wreak havoc on a garden. With such abundant populations, it’s not unusual for 25 elk to be standing along the perimeter of a garden.”

But Heidi has found a reliable solution that she uses at home and for her clients. “I haven’t found anything that works better than Plantskydd! Number one,” explains Heidi, “it works beautifully because it does not wash off in the rain! And we have a lot of rain fall, about 70 inches a year at least. And it stays on for a long time. I apply in the spring and I apply in the fall, so I only do two applications.”

About 50% of Heidi’s clients now ask for her plant protection services. “I have tried everything from coyote urine to human urine — even Deer Off® or any of those other products — nothing else works like Plantskydd.” Sometimes other methods of plant protection will work for a short period of time Heidi concedes, but she says eventually the deer and elk get used to it. “I’ve used electric fencing, gates, everything. But I am really a true believer in Plantskydd. It is the only thing that I have found that has really worked, and worked well.”

Some landscapers have been hesitant to use the product because initially, upon application, it turns the plants a dark color, Heidi says. “I tell them just to hang tight because it will go away.”

With her new found solution, Heidi is now able to create gardens with diverse and unique plants. “I’m known for doing tropicalism — a lot of tropical gardens or miniature conifers. And Plantskydd allowed me to put those gardens in areas I normally would not have. We can all share a little bit, and with animals too, but if it wasn’t for Plantskydd, I wouldn’t have this wonderful place to build from.”

~ November 2003 ~

HOME GARDENER

Britta Harris, Lincoln, IL

For Britta Harris, gardening has always been part of her life. “No matter where my family has lived, we have always had a garden,” she explains. Currently, Ms. Harris and her husband care for approximately ten acres of wooded land and also tend a vegetable garden. Her lot boasts a wide variety of tree and shrub species. “In an open area near a surrounding field of prairie grasses and forbs, we have started a smaller wildflower garden,” says Harris.

Living on property with a large wooded area has left Harris’ plants vulnerable to animal browse damage. “Over the years, we have experienced many losses due to animal depredation (deer, squirrels and rabbits). We finally were able to stem the losses using Plantskydd Animal Repellent,” asserts Harris.

“Recently, we established a garden in a protected area near our house and deck. Here we have enjoyed tropical plantings for a few months each year. The plants were also enjoyed by squirrels and rabbits, but spraying Plantskydd took care of the problem. Knowing that we don’t have to check the plants every day is one of the benefits of using Plantskydd,” says Harris.

~ September 2003~



FORESTRY

Plantskydd’s effectiveness as an animal browse deterrent has been confirmed in operational conditions since 1993 by large forestry companies on millions of conifer and deciduous trees of various species. Plantskydd’s long term effectiveness is attributed to its tenacity in sticking to plants, even under severe snow/rainfall.



Photo courtesy of Bill Lasuta

Bill Lasuta, Forestry Consultant

Bill Lasuta, currently working as a forestry consultant on the Sunshine Coast in British Columbia, has been employed in the forest industry for 35 years; over the last 25 years in silviculture. Bill has 9 years experience applying Plantskydd in industrial operations.

The necessity of protecting large scale forestry investments is critical, says Lasuta. “That’s where biological repellents like Plantskydd come in because they are cost effective and they work. When you start comparing the price of several applications of Plantskydd, which could be less than one dollar a tree to get it up and away from the deer, and compare that with other methods, it’s a pittance. It protects the trees for six months, which is a big bonus,” Lasuta claims.

“There is also a huge emphasis on the environment,” comments Lasuta. “The Forest Practices Code in British Columbia, and a myriad

of provincial and federal legislation makes proper forest stewardship of crown and private lands a must. Using inert and organic substances like Plantskydd is a big plus.”

Lasuta says Plantskydd satisfies three important criteria for foresters — “It’s easy to put on, it’s cheap and it’s effective!”

~ August 2003 ~

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Over 80 Soil & Water Conservation Districts in more than 20 States recommend and sell Plantskydd as part of their annual tree sale programs.

Dale Olson, Sawyer County Conservation District

Dale Olson trained in wildlife biology in the Midwest, but “switched into a more holistic line of work” once he realized the kind of employment limitations often facing wildlife biologists in the region. He now works as the Conservation Administrator for the Sawyer County Conservation District in Wisconsin.

“Districts and Counties are now promoting locally led conservation as the alternative to the federal ‘one size fits all’ solutions,” says Olson. He explains that Conservation Districts answer questions about erosion control, wildlife habitat, invasive species, water quality and agricultural practices.

Olson initially purchased Plantskydd for small scale projects, but when he discovered how effective the product was, he ordered more. “We’ve never advertised and have tons of repeat sales.”



Photo courtesy of USDA

Plantskydd is an integral link to Olson’s shoreline restoration projects. “The product gives our shoreline buffer restorations a chance to survive. Lakeshore property owners, as a general rule, like to see deer, don’t hunt and want to see their plantings flower rather than become deer lunch,” Olson explains. “Plantskydd makes an excellent repellent. It really does work!”

~ September 2003 ~

GARDEN RETAILER

Robyn Holland, Western Sierra Nursery

Robyn Holland and husband, Mark, have owned and operated Western Sierra Nursery since 1986. Located in Oakhurst, California, at the southern entrance of Yosemite National Park, Holland explains how deer are a nuisance for her customers and at her nursery.

“One of our first questions we ask people that come in and want to landscape is ‘Do you have a deer problem?’ And if they say yes, then we immediately go to our plants that are more deer proof than others.” She sites roses as an example of a plant that is favored by both her clients and deer, often being the hardest to protect from browse damage. “In all the years of doing business, and with the multitude of products on the shelf to keep deer away, whether it’s smell or taste, Plantskydd is the one that has been the most successful for everyone that has used it. I have people that come in and ask for it by name now...Because it works! All the others might work for a while. This one seems to be consistently working,” Holland emphasizes.

“Other than absolutely surrounding your property with eight-foot fencing, making an eye sore in the garden to keep deer away, your next best thing is Plantskydd.”

Also, thanks to Plantskydd Holland is now able to grow roses in her garden at home. “I have roses in my front yard for the first time in ten years!”

~ December 2003 ~