



** This news release from K-State Research and Extension is available online at <https://ksre-learn.com/protecting-sweet-corn>

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Protecting sweet corn from raccoons

K-State horticulture expert shares tips for raccoon control

K-State Research and Extension news service

MANHATTAN, Kan. — While they may be a more common pest in garbage, raccoons also target the home garden. Ever-so-clever, it seems as though raccoons harvest sweet corn right before it is to be picked.

Kansas State University horticulture expert Cynthia Domenghini says fencing may be the best way to prevent raccoons from stealing the year's harvest.

Electric Fencing

To install electric fencing, use two or more wires, the first about five inches above the ground and the second four inches above the first (or nine inches above ground). Raccoons must not be able to crawl under, go between or go over the wires without being shocked.

Fence posts and insulators used for electric fences work well for this application.

"It is much easier to use the woven electric wire with strands of wire embedded than to use a solid metal wire. The woven wire is easier to bend around corners and to roll up when done for the year," Domenghini said.

Domenghini suggests using battery operated fencing rather than plug-ins.

"Start the charger before the corn is close to being ripe. Once raccoons get a taste of the corn, they are more difficult to discourage," Domenghini said.

She encourages weed control around the wire to prevent them from intercepting the voltage.

Kennel Fencing

Kennel fencing can also be an alternative protection from raccoons.

“Make sure that the panels are tied together well enough that raccoons can’t squeeze through corners,” Domenghini said.

A covering over the top may be needed if the raccoons figure out how to climb the panels.

Welded garden fence can work well for this.

Domenghini and her colleagues in K-State's Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources produce a weekly [Horticulture Newsletter](#) with tips for maintaining home landscapes and gardens. The newsletter is available to view online or can be delivered by email each week.

Interested persons can subscribe to the newsletter, as well as submit their garden and yard-related questions, by sending email to Domenghini at Cdom@ksu.edu, or contact your [local K-State Research and Extension office](#).

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FOR PRINT PUBLICATIONS: Links used in this story

K-State Horticulture Newsletter, <https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/horticulture-resource-center/horticulture-newsletter/>

K-State Research and Extension local offices, <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/about/statewide-locations.html>

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