



How to Protect Trees from Beaver Chewing

Fence individual trees using **14 gauge welded wire- 4ft tall with 2in x 4in mesh**. The gauge is important because beavers can chew through anything weaker, and the height is recommended because snow can raise a beaver's chewing surface. Depending on tree size, of course, 100 ft of fencing can protect approximately 10 trees.

Leave a **gap of 1ft** in between the tree and the fence, all the way around the trunk's circumference. This practice gives the tree room to grow and ensures that this method will be effective for years without needing maintenance or threatening to girdle and harm the tree.

Cut the fencing so you can secure the seam by simply bending the cut ends around the other edge. You could also use hog rings or zip ties, if preferred, although we like to discourage leaving any plastic behind that will eventually rot off and litter the landscape.

Use 3-5 **landscape pins/staples** (the longer the better) to secure the base of each fence so beavers don't chew up and underneath it. Over time, vegetation grows around the base further securing the fence in place.

When needed, cut and flare out fencing (or use scrap pieces) to accommodate low branches, roots (which beavers will also chew), and hillsides.

The trickiest part can be deciding what trees to prioritize for fencing. Observe what beavers have already chewed in your area to learn about specific preferences as they differ from place to place. Consider tree species, size, and proximity to water among factors such as sentimental value, risk of property damage if felled, species conservation status, and more. As a general starting point, conifers are least preferred, but beavers can still chew them. Favorites include alder, maple, willow, birch, poplar, cottonwood, and cherry. Beavers prefer to fell trees about the diameter of an adult human arm, but can take down much larger trees, often returning nightly to chew for days or weeks. Trees within 40m of the water are most likely to be felled first, but beavers may travel farther for preferred species.

It is important to wrap high-priority trees before or immediately after the first signs of chewing are observed. When a beaver has already chewed around the entire circumference of a tree, it will eventually die and is no longer worth fencing.



Tree-Protection Materials:

These exact materials must be purchased to be eligible for the HBCF cost-share program



14 gauge welded wire:

4 feet tall with 2in x 4in mesh

Plan to buy 100 feet of fencing to protect approximately 10-20 trees (depending on their size).

It is sold in the garden supply section of Lowes/Home

Depot/Tractor Supply for about \$100 per roll.

Landscape pins/staples

Purchase a pack of 100 (around \$10) for each 100ft roll of fencing you buy.



Other useful materials:

Rubber boots, work gloves, wire/bolt cutters

CORRECT



INCORRECT

