

Division of Wildlife

# GENERAL/RESIDENTIAL HARASSMENT TECHNIQUES TIMELINE



The best tool for discouraging Canada geese from using your property is harassment. There are many methods of harassing geese, including hunting (where feasible), using dogs, pyrotechnics and other scare devices. However, none of the harassment methods will be effective if not employed **correctly** or at the **proper time of year**. The appropriate harassment activities for your particular situation should be carefully chosen and timed based on the season of the year and type of groups of geese you are trying to discourage.

There are two different types of geese that may be present on your property:

1. **Migratory Geese** – Geese that migrate to/from their winter and breeding areas. Migratory geese usually show up in early fall and may persist in Ohio throughout the winter. They generally are wary and are easily hazed. Migratory geese are often attracted to an area due to the presence of resident geese.
2. **Resident Geese** – Geese that stay in one general area throughout most of the year but may migrate short distances during periods of severe weather. These geese are usually in an urban/suburban area. Generally resident geese are familiar with local water and food sources and are much more difficult to haze or deter from your property

A goose problem can consist of one or both of two different groups of geese:

1. **Flocked Geese** – Geese that generally stay together while feeding and when flying from place to place. Flocks can number from as little as a few geese to hundreds of birds. This behavior is seen most commonly in the fall and winter months. It can also occur during the spring and summer when several non-breeding age geese stay together while other pairs of geese are actively nesting.
2. **Paired Geese** – Two geese (a male and a female) that have paired to raise young. Nesting geese can be aggressive to humans, pets, automobiles and other geese when protecting their nest and/or young from what they perceive as a threat. In general, nesting geese are very difficult to discourage once they have laid eggs or have hatched young that are not yet old enough to fly.

You must pay close attention to the geese on your property to determine if you are dealing with flocked and/or paired geese. Often you will be dealing with both types of geese during different times of the year. The other side of this sheet is a summary by month of suggested actions that should be taken to discourage geese from your property.



# General/Residential Goose Harassment Timeline

Month	Activity of Geese	Response from Landowner	Suggested Techniques
January	Migratory geese are moving through the area. Some pairs of breeding age geese may break away from the flocks in early preparation of the nesting season.	Employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting (if allowed) Pyrotechnics Grid Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices Apply Turf Repellent
February	Geese begin to pair up and separate themselves from the flock. Non-breeding geese group together. Migratory flocks leave the area.	Begin <b>EXTENSIVE</b> harassment techniques to get rid of both migrating geese and paired geese. Fence off nesting areas where geese caused conflicts in previous year (ie. Doorways and walkways). Fill out a complaint form at <a href="http://www.ohiodnr.com/gooseconflict">www.ohiodnr.com/gooseconflict</a>	Pyrotechnics Grid Dogs Fencing Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices
March	Geese are paired and begin to set up nesting territories. Non-breeding geese may also be present.	Continue to use <b>EXTENSIVE</b> harassment techniques unless eggs are found in a nest. If at least one egg is found in a nest, harassment is not effective since geese won't abandon an active nest. Contact Division of Wildlife in early March if your tactics aren't working for technical advice.	Pyrotechnics Grid Dogs Fencing Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices
April	Geese lay eggs in early April and begin incubating the eggs in late April. Non-breeding geese are still in flocks.	Keep records of where each nest is located. Contact Division of Wildlife to inquire about a nest destruction permit. Harass non-breeding geese off of your property.	Fencing Nest Destruction Permit Apply Turf Repellent
May	Most goose eggs begin to hatch. Flocks of non-breeding geese may still be in area.	Harassing geese with young that cannot fly is not effective. Family groups may be "herded" off of your property. Install a barrier to prevent geese from walking back onto your property.	Fencing Habitat Modification
June	Geese begin molting their feathers and are unable to fly.	Continue to herd the adult and young geese off of your property. Contact Division of Wildlife in early June to inquire about a roundup permit	Fencing Habitat Modification Roundup Permit
July	Adult and young geese are able to fly around mid-July. Resident geese continue to form flocks.	Continue to harass geese off of your property. If you have young geese, they will soon be able to fly and when they do begin <b>EXTENSIVE</b> harassment	Fencing Mechanical Scare Devices Habitat Modification Pyrotechnics Apply Turf Repellent
August	Resident geese are in flocks.	Report results of goose damage permits at: <a href="http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/wildlife/Goose/login.aspx">www.dnr.state.oh.us/wildlife/Goose/login.aspx</a> by Sep. 1. All goose damage permits expire August 31. Continue to harass geese off of your property.	Fencing Mechanical Scare Devices Habitat Modification Pyrotechnics Dogs
September	Resident geese are in flocks.	If feasible, allow goose hunting on your property during the September goose season (Sep. 1-15) Continue to employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting (if allowed) Pyrotechnics Grid Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices
October	Resident geese are in flocks. Migratory geese are moving through the area.	Goose hunting season usually starts in mid- October. Encourage hunting on your property, if feasible. Continue to employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting (if allowed) Pyrotechnics Grid Repair Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices Apply Turf Repellent
November	Resident geese are in flocks. Migratory geese are moving through the area.	Continue to employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting (if allowed) Pyrotechnics Grid Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices
December	Resident geese are in flocks. Migratory geese are moving through the area.	Continue to employ harassment techniques to birds that have been in the area as well as any migrating geese that may come onto your property.	Hunting (if allowed) Pyrotechnics Grid Fencing Dogs Visual Deterrents Mechanical Scare Devices

