

Technical Assistance for Homeowners



- Prevention
- Exclusion
- Deterrents
- Habitat Modification



There are several ways landowners can keep iguanas from their properties: Prevention, exclusion, using deterrents, and modifying habitat to make the area less appealing. Many of these strategies are very simple and easily employed.

Prevention



<https://memeguy.com/photo/176172/we-heard-of-old-ladies-feeding-pigeons-but-this-is-ridiculous>

Never feed iguanas!



Understanding why iguanas may be attracted to an area is the first step to prevention. Typically, iguanas will use an area for foraging or for cover/nesting. To prevent iguanas from entering your property consider what might attract them. Never feed iguanas – either intentionally or unintentionally. Food will attract iguanas and can create problems for both you and your neighbors by creating dense concentrations of iguanas. Feeding other animals outdoors will attract unwanted visitors. Pans of cut fruit and outside pet food will attract more than iguanas - rats and raccoons could visit as well. Remember always to feed pets indoors and clean up any food left outside.

Exclusion



<https://anygivensundry.wordpress.com/tag/chickenwire-plant-cages/>



<https://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/html/g2017/build/g2017.htm>



- Protect valuable plants with cages or screen enclosures
- Install sheet metal around trees to prevent climbing, about 18 inches from tree base

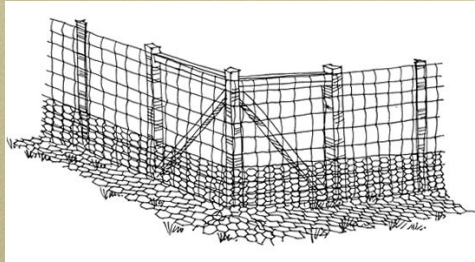
Exclusion techniques can also be deployed to keep iguanas from damaging your property. Consider protecting valuable plants with cages or screen enclosures as pictured here. Sheet metal guards on trees, palms, and dock pilings can prevent them from climbing.

Exclusion



Iguanas are excellent climbers. They may get into and on dwellings via overhanging trees. Trim overhanging branches to remove the unintentional “bridge” to buildings.

Exclusion



<http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/muskkrats.html>



http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/digging_animals_fence.html

- Wire fence barriers to prevent digging
- Site specific implementation
- Electric fencing



Wire barriers can prevent digging on your property. In areas where iguanas burrow or dig, consider installing chicken wire fencing. This fencing should be buried several inches underground or the iguanas may dig underneath the fence. Electric fencing may deter or stop iguanas from climbing as well.

Deterrents



- Harassment
- Loud startling noises
- Talk radio/music
- “Water scare crows”



Another way to keep iguanas from your property is through the use of deterrents. Several options can help you deter iguanas from your property. One can haze basking iguanas by spraying with a water hose until they leave the area, or you can install a water scarecrow sprinkler. You can also make loud noises to startle iguanas and create an unwelcome atmosphere around your property.

Deterrents



Other techniques include installation of CD-ROM discs near sea walls or on trees or other plants you want to protect; Remember to change the position of CDs often enough so iguanas do not become accustomed to their light reflections, otherwise this technique will not work.

Habitat Modification

- Remove protective cover such as dense thickets, rocks and piles of landscape material
- Build mulch or sand piles near sea walls to encourage iguanas to nest in them rather than digging nesting burrows



One of the most effective means of keeping iguanas from your property is to modify habitat. Recall that iguanas may come to an area for one of two primary reasons – food or cover/habitat.

You can also remove protective cover including dense thickets, brush or rock piles where iguanas congregate. Fill vacant iguana burrows with concrete and sand during the day when the animals are likely to be outside of the burrow. You do not want to fill these holes with any animals still inside.

Contrarily, some have constructed artificial nesting habitat to attract iguanas. The purpose of this approach is to control reproduction. Iguanas lay their eggs in soils such as sand or even mulch. By adding mulch piles or sand piles near sea walls, you can encourage iguanas to focus nesting in these controlled structures. This approach may help prevent iguanas digging or creating nesting burrows under homes or sea walls. Once eggs are deposited, they can be easily removed then disposed of in a sealed plastic bag.

Habitat Modification

Preferred Iguana Food Plants

- Hibiscus
- Orchids
- Roses
- Garden greens - kale, broccoli, mustard, collards, sorrel, beets, lettuces
- Nasturtiums
- Impatiens
- Squash and melon
- Hong Kong orchid tree
- Purple heart plant



Finally, you can avoid planting vegetation that iguanas love to eat such as hibiscus, orchids and roses. Iguanas prefer bright yellow, orange or red flowers and fruits and feed on tender leaves. Iguanas tend to consume the youngest leaves on vegetation that have higher protein concentrations and are easier to digest due to low cellulose content.

Habitat Modification

Iguana Resistant Plants

- Milkweed
- Pentas
- Citrus
- Crotons
- Tough, thick leaved plants



Plant species that are iguana-resistant, such as milkweed and citrus. Generally, plants with thick, tough or waxy leaves will discourage iguana consumption. These types of leaves are less palatable and often difficult to digest. If the food source is removed, iguanas will be less likely to inhabit an area.