

## **Everything I know about keeping Wallabies out of your organic vegetable patch.**

Wallabies are great, but not in your garden and when you don't want to resort to a gun or chemicals, it can be fairly challenging working out what to do.

After many months and many enquiries, here's a summary of what i've figured out:

There are three things to work on:

- 1) Making the garden unappealing to the wallabies
- 2) Making an effective barrier
- 3) Making outside the garden appealing

### *Making the Garden Unappealing*

Because of the delicious fresh greens on the inside, this may seem like an impossible task, however there are several things you can do... By far the most effective method is to put a wallaby predator on the inside! In my case this was my dog who protested greatly at having to sleep outside (in a kennel) when she had over the years managed to worm her way inside and onto a bean bag. This worked instantly at the vegetables are now growing again.

If you don't have a dog, can't get one or are unwilling to have them sleep in the garden then you can also try putting things wallabies don't like around the fenceline. For example blood and bone, or human hair from the hairdressers as you'll need a fair bit!

Finally, you can choose not to grow items that are on wallabies favourite list, eg. apple trees, tomatoes, silverbeet, spinach, cabbage, etc. And go for vegetables they don't tend to eat eg, onion, garlic, cabbage, potato, shallots, carrots and herbs.

### *Making an effective barrier*

Electranet make a mesh electric fence that is only 1.2m high but is extremely effective. It worked for almost two years without fail... but if the fence is every left off for any length of time and the wallabies find out just how good the things on the inside are, the electric shock will no longer act as a deterrent. You have two choices if this happens, make the fence so tall that the wallabies can't jump it (expensive and ugly) or put up a second fence about one metre away.

The idea is to put a second fence that is tall enough to make the wallabies jump and at just the right distance from the other one that when they jump, they will land on the second one. This deters them from jumping at all.



### *Making outside the garden more appealing*

You can grow plants that wallabies like eg. mint and rose bushes. However I just slash large areas of grass to encourage young shoots to come up. This provides the wallabies with an alternative and improves your pasture/lawn at the same time.

Please get in touch if you have any other ideas or experiences!

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