

Black Creek Farm & Feed Offers Freedom From Winter Pests

By Steve Nixon

Ah, winter weather in the Comox Valley...it's not too cold and not too snowy. But, because our winters are so temperate and creatures don't hibernate as much as in most other areas, we often see an increase in "pests" that are seeking shelter or food at our homes or farms.

If you are tired of mice and rats helping themselves to warm shelter in your cabinets, closets, your compost bin, or your farm-feed containers...deer eating everything left in your yard or garden...or raccoons ripping through trash or stalking your chickens, then consider humane solutions to eradicate the pests in your yard.

Products that are relatively new on the market can help with this. For instance, the Raticator is a "rodent control device" that eliminates the need to use poisons or messy traps to kill mice and rats.

Using an electric charge, the Raticator simply gives a shock within the chamber that kills the rodent. It runs on double-A batteries that last a minimum of six months, according to the manufacturer, whose website also says, "These new units have far enhanced electronics over the previous model, as well as a more effective kill pad design. They are created for durability and utilize solid state electronics for years of reliable performance."

Deer are another nuisance you may love to hate, especially as



they scrounge for anything green, including your garden plants.

With a new product called Multi-Terrain Deer Fence, you can affordably protect your yard. This new product is less visible than traditional fencing, and is ideal for yards with varied terrain. It is UV-protected and consists of industrial grade 2-inch square mesh with a rope border. This fencing is eight-feet high and available in 100-foot and 250-foot rolls.

If raccoons are your issue, consider a live trap or you may need additional reinforcement for your compost bin, garbage containers, and chicken coop.

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