

REDUCING EUROPEAN ROE DEER BROWSE DAMAGE IN HOP GARDENS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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ABSTRACT

Czech hop growers deal with browse damage of young hop shoots. Some deterrent methods are tested, but a temporary polytape electric fence around a hop garden is highly effective.

KEY WORDS. Hop, damage, European roe deer, browsing, electric fence.

INTRODUCTION

The Czech hop growers have been recently dealing with a problem how to protect young shoots against browse damage caused by a wild game. Signs of animal presence (droppings, footprints) and abundance or observation have denoted a roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) which belongs naturally to the Czech landscape.

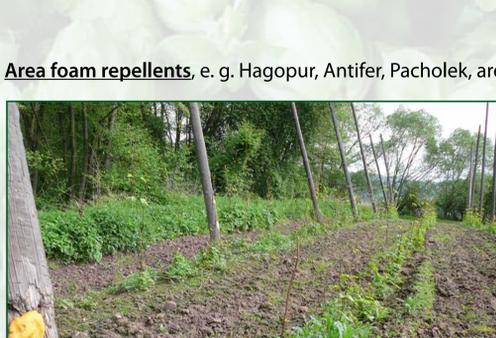


Growth stages from sprouting after cutting (BBCH 9) until climbing up to approximately 2 meters (BBCH 32-33) are crucial. A high priority against browse is to protect an apex of hop bine. In the Czech Republic, human hair, contact and area repellents have been hung on anchor cables to discourage deer. The contact repellent called 'Trico' (sheep fat substance) have been added to the methodology recently. However, a temporary polytape electric fence is highly effective.



MATERIAL AND METHODS

Human hair from hairdresser's in perforated bag is hung on anchor cables.



Area foam repellents, e. g. Hagopur, Antifer, Pacholek, are applied on hop poles or hung on anchor cables. Formerly, a liquid cartridge was sprayed on stripes of textiles.

Aluminium strips are hung on anchor cables. They include a part for spraying area repellents containing predator or human odors. The effect is optical and noisy (they reflect sun rays and they jingle).



Contact repellent 'Trico' (sheep fat), approved in a methodology, is applied with a spraying machine. A side effect of supplementary soil substance 'Eutrofit' might discourage browse damage as well.



Electric polytape fence is installed around a hop garden.



RESULTS

Czech hop growers combine various methods of deterrents against browse damage. If roe deer's density is high, electric fencing may be the best option. It is recommended for localities with abundance of roe deers where a hop garden adjoins a forest or a grove.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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