

Results and discussion:

Regarding deer and eight-foot woven wire fences; eight feet is not enough. During the winter season of 2022, one deer walked across a frozen pond (that is used as a natural fence) and ambled through the snow and out again. And that had been the only incursion. A bit of dried blood meal at the site of entry was enough to keep it from coming back into our 5-acre apple orchard. However, Spring and plenty of safe and succulent food attracted a number of does that did find an extremely narrow entry point near where the incursion of that winter took place. I had planted around 40 new apple trees and had felt confident of their well-being early this Spring. However, in late May I could see that the new saplings had been discovered. Our orchard is not a high-density production. It is in the range of around 100 trees per acre. Like the trees, the ground management is not so intense. During mowing this late May, I tossed out four young fawns and literally 'drove' out the mothers. The fawns are gone from the field. But at least one doe came back for a bit of browsing. I have now a Plant Skydd deer repellent program for the saplings.

Fortunately, and though a bit late, having harvested our own eastern cedar trees and the generous length of our posts, will allow us to add two strands of a high tensile wire to give a nine and-a-half foot clearance.