

Bear Deterrents



For Louisiana Outdoor Enthusiasts

Physical and psychological barriers can eliminate some on-going bear problems and offer the greatest immediate relief from bear conflicts. Barriers, in some cases, are a viable option for controlling bear-caused damage because they are economically and technically feasible to implement. The following suggestions may help to ensure an enjoyable outdoor experience while hunting and recreating in Louisiana bear country.



Electric Fencing

Electric fence supplies are readily available at most farm supply stores. The electric wire is flagged in order to allow deer to see the fencing easily. It has been reported that deer in the area quickly learned to jump over the fence and have access to the food plot.

Unwelcome Mats

A relatively low-tech and inexpensive way to deter bears from investigating structures are unwelcome mats. This is a simple design consisting of boards with upward pointing nails. The key is to space the nails no greater than 2" apart. These devices can be placed in front of doors or windows, discouraging bears from attempting to enter the dwelling.

Bear Proof Ice Chests

Coolers and ice chests left unattended can fall victim to black bears. Ice chests should be "bear proof" as pictured here or placed in a secure building or shed.



Photo: Wally Cotton

Several methods and products can be utilized while enjoying the Louisiana outdoors in bear country:

- **Hang your ATV seat while hunting**

Bears, like some other animals, seem to be attracted to rubber and rubber-like products. Hunters across the country are reporting damage to the ATV seat cushions of their parked vehicles while away hunting. To prevent this from being an issue, it is advised that hunters remove their seats and hang them over tree branches, as seen pictured at right.



- **Use of Bear Spray**

Bears are curious animals and sometimes their curiosity can be mistaken for aggression. It is not unusual for a bear to peer up into a deer stand. Undoubtedly, this action could make even the calmest hunter quite nervous. It is likely that the animal doesn't even realize that the stand's occupant is indeed a human. An appropriate reaction can be to deliver a quick shot of bear spray to the animal's face.

The use of bear spray on a bear looking up into the stand would be a great lesson for that bear to stay away from deer stands.

Only the use of EPA registered "bear spray" is recommended.

- **Screamers**

These pyrotechnic devices (which are non-lethal) have proven to be effective in conflict bear situations. A scare launcher emits a blank scare cartridge (screamer) causing a loud sound which scares the bear from the area.



Tips for Hunting in Bear Country:

- Place garbage, deer bait, coolers and all other attractants in a secure shed or bear-proof container
- Discard gut piles away from your camp area
- If using a feeder, use an automated feeder hung at least 10 feet off the ground and 4 feet from the closest tree or post
- Switch bait types from corn to soybeans
- Carry bear spray for additional protection
- Food plots instead of bait will drastically reduce bear visits to stands