

Lake Merritt Canada Goose Management Study

Canada Goose Management Techniques

Category/Type	Description	Applicable to Lake Merritt?	Permits Required?	Lifespan Cost	Timing	Location	Strengths	Weaknesses	Aesthetic Impact	Treatment	Affects Other Species	Producers/ Providers
Barriers												
Fencing (wire, string, rope, chain-link, netting)	Designed to keep geese out of grazing areas. Should be at least 30 inches tall and long enough to discourage geese from walking around it.	Yes	No	Med	Molting; Before arrival	Feeding or loafing	Immediate reduction or elimination.	Geese may relocate. Will not work if geese can fly or walk into area. Does not reduce overall population.	High	Reversible	Yes	Peaceful Valley Farm Supply; Bird Barrier America; Margo Supplies
Vegetation (shrubs, hedges)	Designed to block pathways, obstruct line of sight, or make area less attractive due to potential attacks from predators.	Yes	No	Med	Anytime	Feeding or loafing	Immediate reduction or elimination.	Will not work if geese can fly or walk into area. Does not reduce overall population.	Low	Permanent	May	Peaceful Valley Farm Supply
Rocks, boulders	Designed to block shoreline access to grazing areas and obstructs line of sight from potential predators.	Yes	No	Low	Anytime	Feeding or loafing	Immediate reduction or elimination.	Will not work if geese can fly or walk into area. Does not reduce overall population.	Med	Permanent	May	
Tape, flagging	Used to discourage geese from landing. There are several variations and designs that can be used.	Yes	No	Low	Before arrival	Anywhere	Immediate reduction or elimination.	Geese may relocate. Does not reduce overall population. Must be moved frequently. Ineffective if geese acclimate.	High	Reversible	Yes	Peaceful Valley Farm Supply; Margo Supplies
Harassment												
Auditory devices (sirens, horns, whistles, cannons, explosions)	Designed to be played at loud levels to scare geese away.	No	Local	Med	Before arrival	Anywhere	Works well with migrants. Can be automated.	Geese may relocate. Must be moved frequently. Cannot be used near residences.	High	Reversible	Yes	Bird-X; Sutton Ag Enterprises
Strobe lights	Designed to startle and make geese uneasy. Only used where geese problems occur at dusk or night.	No	Local	Med	Before arrival	Anywhere	Works well with migrants. Can be automated.	Geese may relocate. Cannot be used near residences.	High	Reversible	Yes	Bird-X; Sutton Ag Enterprises
Radio controlled vehicles	Aircraft, motor vehicles, or boats used to scare geese away.	Yes	Local	High	Anytime	Open areas	Immediate reduction or elimination. Works well with migrants.	Geese may relocate. May be dangerous if not well controlled.	Low	Reversible	Yes	
Dog hazing	Trained dogs, often border collies, are allowed to chase geese away (but not allowed to touch/catch geese).	Yes	Local	Med	Anytime	Feeding or loafing	Immediate reduction or elimination.	Geese may relocate. Does not reduce overall population. Labor intensive	Low	Reversible	Yes	GooseBusters; Wild Goose Chase
Decoys (coyote, scarecrows, "eye-spot", balloons, kites)	Designed to frighten geese away from problem sites. They are usually designed after natural predators.	Yes	No	Low	Before arrival	Anywhere	Immediate reduction or elimination.	Geese may relocate. Must be moved frequently. Does not reduce overall population. Ineffective if geese acclimate.	High	Reversible	Yes	Renzo's; Peaceful Valley Farm Supply; Bird-X
Repellents												
Chemical repellants	Used to discourage geese from inhabiting areas. Can be applied directly to target lawn areas.	No	No	High	Anytime	Feeding	Non-toxic and biodegradable. Reduction in feeding problem.	Geese may relocate. Does not reduce overall population. Must reapply frequently (after every rain event or watering).	Low	Reversible	Yes	Nixalite of America, Flight Control

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Reproductive Control												
Removal of nesting materials or structures	Removal of potential or existing nesting materials or structures discourages egg laying.	Yes	No	Low	Before laying	Nesting	Immediate reduction or elimination. Eliminates gosling production.	Nesting may relocate. May affect nesting by other bird species.	Low	Reversible	No	
Oiling or addling Eggs	Oiling eggs prevents gases to exchange through the egg, thereby causing the embryo to asphyxiate. Vigorously shaking the egg destroys the embryo.	No	Fed, State	Med	Incubation	Nesting	Eliminates gosling production.	Long-term consistency is required. Labor intensive.	None	Permanent	No	Wild Goose Chase; (Use 100% corn oil)
Dummy eggs (wood, plastic, unfertilized, or hard-boiled)	Eggs are replaced with dummy eggs. The goose will tend to incubate rather than re-nest.	Yes	Fed, State	Med	Incubation	Nesting	Eliminates gosling production.	Long-term consistency is required. Labor intensive.	None	Permanent	No	
Surgical neutering	Sterilization of male geese (vasectomy).	No	Fed, State	High	At molting	Nesting	Eliminates gosling production.	Very labor intensive.	None	Permanent	No	
Contraceptive	Oral contraceptives containing the compound nicarbazin are used as a reproductive control inhibitor.	No	Fed, State	High	Anytime	Nesting	Designed for minimum consumption by non-target species.	Long term consistency is required.	None	Reversible	No	Ovo-Control-G
Removal												
Translocation	Relocation of juvenile geese to other locations. Relocation to state-managed wildlife areas where hunting is allowed.	Yes	Fed, State	Med	Anytime	Anywhere	Immediate reduction or elimination.	Only works with juvenile birds.	None	Permanent	No	Canada Goose Management (CGM)
Hunting, special-purpose kill permits	Any one possessing a valid hunting license may shoot geese in areas open to waterfowl hunting. Permits granted to specific individuals for the purpose of killing geese.	No	Fed, State	Low	Anytime	Anywhere	Immediate reduction or elimination.	Most urban areas closed to hunting. Labor intensive.	None	Permanent	No	
Site Management												
Waste collection	Physical collection of goose wastes by hand or machine.	Yes	No	Med	Anytime	Feeding or loafing	Immediate reduction of waste.	Does not reduce overall population.	Low	Reversible	No	NatureSweep
Public education (discontinuance of feeding)	Posting informational signs and flyers educating the general public about the problems of feeding geese.	Yes	No	Low	Anytime	Anywhere	Educates local residents. May reduce overall population.	Long-term consistency is required to discourage migrants.	Low	Permanent	No	GeesePeace
Habitat modification (reduce lawn areas, geese exclusion areas)	Modifying the areas the geese are problems or changing their feeding areas to discourage use in certain areas.	Yes	No	Med	Anytime	Anywhere	Immediate reduction or elimination. Reduces waste in specific areas.	Does not reduce overall population. May reduce recreational value for humans.	Med	Permanent	Yes	