

New Chemical Used to Curb Deer Invasion

GLENDALE—Vegetation in Chevy Chase Canyon has been treated to a new chemical designed to keep wild deer from eating it.

Canyon residents had complained to the City Council that they had suffered losses of hundreds of dollars in flower and other foliage from night roaming deer.

The chemical, which has an adhesive content to make it stay on, creates a taste that is highly repulsive to deer, William C. Peters, warden for the state Fish and Game Department, said.

Peters, who is based in Long Beach, was consulted by the city manager's office on how to curb the deer invasion.

At a council meeting one resident asked if the city would declare a hunting season to eliminate a pack of 15-20 deer which have been hemmed into a section of the San Rafael Hills undergoing considerable subdividing for construction.

James Rez, deputy city attorney, suggested that affected residents consider using the new chemical.

Alternative solutions including declaring a hunting season and use of tranquilizers followed by animal relocation was also given the city by Peters.

But the area has hunting restrictions for safety reasons and Peters felt the tranquilizing procedure was not feasible because of the ravine's terrain and danger to the deer.

He said residents could construct large fences "high enough to keep out the animals, but this is expensive. Of course, foliage that deer would not or could not like to eat may be planted, but most people don't care for this kind of landscaping."