

Orchard Deer Fence with Grape Arbor

Del Stubbs, Minnesota

There was discussion on the listserv of ways to train grape arbors in orchards. Del Stubbs kindly provided description and detailed photos of how he built his combination deer fence and grape arbor. He wrote:

“I am quite happy with a method I have come up with of using our 800’-long T-post deer fence also as a grape arbor. I took 24”-long 2x4’s, cut a small dado in the side of one end (dado is the same width as a side of the T-post) and just bolted them to the post on the inside of the fence at about 2’, 4’ and 6’ off the ground. I then strung heavy, strong wire between them all. My deer fence uses 8’ T-posts (net 6’8” height). Bottom is 4’-high field fencing. Next is two rows of electric, then non-electric wire to top. I add another 18” of post to the top using conduit and stainless pipe clamps to get it over 8’ now that my apples are starting to produce. The wire drops into a slot making it easy to drop all vines in fall for (we hope) snow cover. Fence length is about 800’ - too much investment to waste on just keeping out deer! Easy, very inexpensive, strong, and uses posts I already have.”

“Note: T-post is not bored for the bolt. It goes just outside the post and the fender washer causes grip. This allows 2x4 arm to be slid up or down as needed, than tightened in place. I am considering making the 4’-high arm extend out 2’ on the outside also and putting an electric wire there to shock deer and bear before they get right up to the fence.”

“Note: Slot (dado done with a circular saw) is barely visible. It locks the 2x4 on to the T-post.”

