

Cat Problems in Your Garden

Talk to your neighbours – If you know who owns the cat, talk to the owner. Often they will be apologetic and make an effort to rectify the problem.

If you are not comfortable speaking directly with your neighbour, this sheet and or the anonymous Cat Card that provides information on the new cat laws can be dropped in their mailbox. The Cat Card is available from the City of Melville web site.

Cats are creatures of habit and will often return to the same area regularly for sunning, defecating or urinating. If this is a problem in your garden, then it is important to break this habit. There are a number of deterrents that you can try which may or may not prove successful.

Natural cat deterrents and repellents (place around your garden every few days):

- Citrus fragrances – scatter orange or lemon peels or spray with citrus-scented fragrances
- Coffee grounds
- Oil of lavender
- Garlic
- Cinnamon
- Lemongrass
- Citronella
- Eucalyptus
- Vinegar sprayed on areas where they roam.



Pine cones and heavy bark mulch also act as a deterrent as cats don't like the feel of them on their feet. Also try sprinkling dried nut or bean shells, broken egg shells, holly leaves, or rock mulch.

Another suggestion is to fill a 2 litre plastic bottle with water, this magnifies movement on the other side and may deter cats.

Commercial cat repellent sprays and gels are also available from plant nurseries vets or RSPCA .

These methods will only work if the cat does not like the smell of the product.

Plants that are natural cat deterrents:

- Curry plant – *Helichrysum augustifolium* · Geranium – *Pelargonium*
- Rosemary – *Rosmarinus officinalis*
- Scaredy cat plant – *Plectranthus caninus* · Lemon thyme – *Thymus citriodorus*
- Lavender – *Lavandula augustifolia* · Pennyroyal – *Mentha pulegium*

Do not use a disinfectant that contains ammonia, as this may attract cats to the area.

