



HARASSMENT TECHNIQUES TIMELINE

The best tool for discouraging Canada geese from using your property is harassment. There are many methods of harassing geese, including hunting (where feasible) using dogs, pyrotechnics and other scare devices, all of which are described in the following pages. However, none of the harassment methods will be effective if not employed correctly or at the proper time of year. The appropriate harassment activities for your particular situation should be carefully chosen and timed based on the season of the year and type of groups of geese you are trying to discourage.

There Are Two Different Categories Of Geese That May Be Present On Your Property:

- 1. Migratory Geese** – Geese that migrate to/from their winter and breeding areas. Migratory geese usually show up in early fall and may persist in Ohio throughout the winter. They generally are wary and are easily hazed. Migratory geese are often attracted due to the presence of resident geese.
- 2. Resident Geese** – Geese that stay in one general area throughout most of the year but may migrate short distances during periods of severe weather. These geese are usually in an urban/suburban area. Generally resident geese are familiar with local water and food sources and are much more difficult to haze or deter from your property

A Goose Problem Can Consist Of One Or Both Of Two Different Types Of Groups Of Geese:

- 1. Flock(s) of geese:** a group of geese that generally stay together while feeding and when flying from place to place. Flocks can number from as little as a few geese to hundreds of birds. This behavior is seen most commonly in the fall and winter months. It can also occur during the spring and summer when several non-breeding age geese stay together while other pairs of geese are actively nesting. In general, flocks of non-nesting geese can be successfully harassed at any time of year other than during their molt (approximately June 15-July 15).
- 2. Paired (nesting) geese:** 2 geese (a male and a female) that have paired to raise young. Nesting geese can be aggressive to humans, pets, automobiles and other geese when protecting their nest and/or young from what they perceive as a threat. In general, nesting geese are very difficult to discourage once they have at least one egg in the nest or hatched young that are not old enough to fly.

You must pay close attention to the geese on your property to determine if you are dealing with a flock and/or individual pair(s) of nesting geese. Very often, you may experience problems with either or both groups at different times of the year. Below is a summary by month of suggested actions to take to discourage the two different types of groups of Canada geese from using your property.

Month	Activity of geese	Actions to take to control: Flock(s) of geese	Actions to take to control: Paired geese
Jan.	Migratory flocks move through area. Resident flocks made up of family groups and non-breeding age geese observed. Some pairs of breeding age geese may break away from flocks in early preparation of the nesting season.	Employ harassment activities as needed.	Employ harassment activities as needed, paying special attention to potential nesting pairs.
Feb.	Breeding age geese begin to pair up and separate from flocks in preparation for the nesting season. Non-breeding age geese group together. Migratory flocks leave area.	Employ harassment activities as needed.	Employ harassment activities as needed paying special attention to potential nesting pairs. If a goose nest (WITHOUT eggs) is located, render nest site inaccessible using temporary fencing to keep geese away from nest area. Keep on lookout for other nesting location(s). A permit is not necessary to destroy a goose nest that does not contain eggs.
March	Egg laying and incubation begins. Non-breeding age geese flocks may also be present.	Employ harassment activities as needed.	Continue harassment <u>unless</u> eggs are found in a nest. If at least one egg is found in the nest, harassment is not effective since geese will not abandon an active nest. Note that goose nests with eggs are protected and cannot be disturbed without a permit from the Division of Wildlife.
April	Most egg laying and incubation occurs. Non-breeding age geese group together.	Employ harassment activities as needed.	Once eggs are laid, harassment is not effective. Take precautions to protect passers-by from geese that may attack in defense of their nest. Contact your local District Office for a nest destruction permit, if applicable.
May	Most eggs will hatch. Non-breeding age geese group together.	Employ harassment activities as needed.	Harassing geese with young that cannot fly is not effective. Families of geese may be "herded" off of property, if feasible. Install a barrier to prevent geese from walking back onto property.
June	Family groups of geese begin forming flocks. Molt (feather loss and re-growth) begins mid-month. Adult geese will be unable to fly.	Employ harassment activities as needed unless geese are unable to fly. Attempts to harass geese that cannot fly are ineffective. Geese may be "herded" off of property, if feasible. Install barrier to prevent geese from walking back onto property.	Harassing geese with young that cannot fly is not effective. Families of geese may be "herded" off of property, if feasible. Install a barrier to prevent geese from walking back onto property.
July	Molt ends mid-month. Majority of young geese will be old enough to fly.	Attempts to harass geese that cannot fly are ineffective. Geese may be "herded" off of property, if feasible. Install barrier to prevent geese from walking back onto property. When geese are able to fly again, resume EXTENSIVE harassment activities.	Not applicable as geese are not nesting at this time of year.
Aug.	Flocks made up of family groups and non-breeding age geese form.	Employ harassment activities as needed.	Not applicable as geese are not nesting at this time of year.
Sep.	Flocks made up of family groups and non-breeding age geese observed.	Employ harassment activities as needed.	Not applicable as geese are not nesting at this time of year.
Oct.	Flocks made up of family groups and non-breeding age geese observed.	Employ harassment activities as needed.	Not applicable as geese are not nesting at this time of year.
Nov.	Flocks made up of family groups and non-breeding age geese observed.	Employ harassment activities as needed.	Not applicable as geese are not nesting at this time of year.
Dec.	Flocks made up of family groups and non-breeding age geese observed. Migratory flocks move into area.	Employ harassment activities as needed.	Not applicable as geese are not nesting at this time of year.