

Fox control advice

Concern: Damage to infrastructure | Property: Over 5ha



Are foxes causing damage to your farming infrastructure? Consider reinforcements alongside other control methods.

1. Remove food sources

Avoid attracting foxes! Make sure all domestic rubbish is securely stored inside bins and avoid leaving pet food or scraps outdoors.

- ✓ Control [rabbits](#), mice, and non-native rats.
- ✓ Clean up fallen fruit under trees and vines.
- ✓ Control weeds such as [blackberry](#) and [briar rose](#).

2. Modify their habitat

Don't give foxes an easy home! Stop the breeding cycle - if they have nowhere to live, they have nowhere to breed.

- ✓ Fill in fox holes or dens with rocks or wire to block access.
- ✓ Clean up debris and hiding places from your property.

- ✓ Trim low-hanging plants around property buildings and sheds to 50 cm aboveground.
- ✓ Bury or cover exposed pipes.
- ✓ Consider using fox lights and/or motion activated sprinklers.

3. Den fumigation

Fumigation with carbon monoxide gas cartridges is a useful measure to eliminate active dens in areas where shooting and baiting is restricted.

- ✓ Check dens before fumigation to ensure they're not being used by native wildlife.
- ✓ Stop foxes re-using the den by ripping or destroying after fumigation.
- ✓ Spring to early summer is ideal.
- ✓ Local contractors are also available to undertake fumigation services.
- ✓ Must be done away from buildings and by qualified persons. Check local regulations.

Standard procedure: [NATSOP-FOX004 – Fumigation using CO](#)

4. Shooting

Shooting can be a humane method of eliminating localised fox problems when done by a trained and responsible shooters.

- ✓ Always check local firearms regulations.
- ✓ For assistance, contact [SSAA Farmer Assist Program](#).

Standard procedure: [NATSOP-FOX003 – Ground Shooting](#)

5. Trapping

Trapping is not suitable for large-scale fox control as foxes are generally wary creatures. However, a cage-trap may be useful for catching an individual fox in some circumstances.

- ✓ If caught, foxes must be humanely destroyed. Note that the use of steel-jawed traps and snares is prohibited.
- ✓ Rubber-jawed leg-hold traps and treadle snares may be conditionally acceptable subject to animal welfare codes. Check local regulations.
- ✓ Large cage traps can be purchased through agricultural product retailers.
- ✓ Traps must be checked regularly.

Standard procedure: [NATSOP-FOX006 – Cage Traps](#)

6. 1080 baiting

Baiting with 1080 (Sodium Fluoroacetate) requires careful planning and strict adherence to regulations. Read PIRSA Baiting for Foxes.

- ✓ Plan early: the approval process must be completed before 1080 bait can be purchased.
- ✓ Follow all directions-for-use: This includes mandatory neighbour notifications and maintaining specific distances to protect pets.
- ✓ Most effective in spring (breeding females) and autumn (young foxes).
- ✓ There are two suitable baiting methods: Canid Pest Ejectors and meat baits.

For meat baits, neighbours' dwellings must be more than 500m away from bait sites.

When using ejectors this is reduced to more than 150m away.

- ✓ Book an appointment with a Landscape Hills and Fleurieu Stewardship Officer.



Further information

Further information is available through Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu

landscape.sa.gov.au/hf