

Cheap Tree Protector Fails Deer

Jack Nachamkin in Glen Mills, Penn., had trouble with deer eating his fruit trees. He came up with a simple solution.

"I had purchased eight apple trees and within a week of my planting them, the deer had stripped off every leaf from the \$200-worth of trees," he says.

Nachamkin's unconventional solution was to use 72-in. long light-weight bags that are normally used by hunters to transport deer carcasses after field dressing them.

He purchased one bag for each tree from the online hunting supply company, CheaperThanDirt.com, for \$1 each.

"These loosely woven diaphanous cheese-cloth bags weigh several ounces, are stretchable, and let sunlight and air pass through them," he says. "I pounded three stakes into the ground around each tree and fit the bags like a sock over the stakes with the trees inside the triangular interior. Within two weeks, the trees were fully leafed out and growing. In fact, one has reached the top of its sock, so I merely cut a hole to 'let it out' into the air."

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Loosely woven cheese cloth bags protect tree while allowing sunlight and air to pass through.

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Marsh Tacky horses were once common in the swampy and marshy regions of South Carolina and Georgia, but then nearly became extinct.



Rare Breed Of Horses Saved From Extinction

There are thought to be less than 200 remaining Marsh Tacky horses worldwide, a breed that was once common in the swampy and marshy regions of S. Carolina and Georgia. But that was nearly 500 years ago, and the Marsh Tacky is now in a race to rebuild its critically endangered numbers.

"Until recently, the breed was thought to have become extinct during the 1980's and 1990's, but it has managed to hold, thanks to a small group of people committed to their long-held family traditions of owning Marsh Tackys," says Jeannette Beranger, a researcher with the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC).

This small-stature breed originated from Colonial Spanish bloodlines and ranges in height from 13.5 to 15 hands. They come in a variety of colors and some Marsh Tackys exhibit primitive markings, like dorsal zebra leg stripes, and may be naturally gaited. Manes and tails are usually long, reflecting their Spanish heritage.

According to the Carolina Marsh Tacky Outfitters, operated by David Grant and Phil Hayes of Florence, South Carolina, horses of this breed are usually kind, level-headed and easy keepers.

They're "excellent on trails, sure-footed and swamp-savvy," making them ideal hunting horses.

The breed is generally short coupled and deep bodied, but narrow from the front so that the front legs join the chest in the shape of an "A" rather than the shape of a "U" that's seen in most stock horse breeds. The croup

is sloping and the tail is set low.

They have broad foreheads, narrow faces, and straight profiles. They're athletic and useful for a variety of riding disciplines such as ranch work, endurance competitions, and pleasure riding. They have an unusually long stride.

According to Grant, "throughout the 1800's, Tackys were reported to have been found as far north as Myrtle Beach and as far south as Georgia down to St. Simons, almost to the Florida border."

The breed was first documented in South Carolina in 1526, according to Beranger. "Modern history indicates the horses still roamed freely by the hundreds in the early 20th century on the islands off S.C., including Hilton Head. Native islanders continued to breed and use the Tackys until the 1950's when developers moved in, paving roads and gobbling up real estate," says Grant.

The newly formed Carolina Marsh Tacky Association consists of owners and breeders who are working together to complete a stud book and manage the population.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carolina Marsh Tacky Association, Susan Day, secretary, 6685 Quarter Hoss Lane, Holly-wood, S.C. 29449 (ph 843 860-5736; susan.a.day@navy.mil) or Carolina Marsh Tacky Outfitters, David Grant and Phil Hayes, 2637 Anderson Farm Rd., Florence, S.C. 29501 (ph 843 662-7806 or 843-332-262, cell 843 858-0181, david.grant@bell.south.net; www.carolinamarsh tacky.com).



"Dingos have sharp, wild instincts similar to wolves," says Martin Davey, president of an exotic animal corporation in Texas.

Australian Dingoes Available For Sale

Dingos aren't for everyone, but the legendary wild dog of Australia and Southeast Asia is a rare catch for some private owners of exotic animals.

Dingos can be purchased from Martin Davey, president of an exotic animal corporation in Texas.

"People like dingoes because they're a form of wild dogs," Davey says. "They have sharp, wild instincts, similar to wolves."

Some owners tame them and treat them as pets, he adds, and care for dingoes is similar to short-haired dog breeds. Full-grown dingoes weigh 50 to 70 lbs., eat dog food, and require shelter during cold weather.

Davey's company makes sure health and shipping regulations are in order for international shipping. They also transport animals to zoos and buyers throughout North America and internationally.

Dingo sales aren't as common as some of

his other exotic animals, but Davey sells some every year to European, New Zealand and U.S. markets. While much of Davey's business is with zoos, he also sells to individuals.

"People who collect animals have a fascination for them, plus there's the commercial aspect of breeding for resale," Davey says. "It's an extension of farming, though a somewhat more adventurous version."

It's usually not a problem to have dingoes in rural areas, but it's always a good idea to check into local regulations regarding exotic animals, he notes. "Dingos are pretty easy to keep from the point of view of health issues," Davey says, adding that they aren't susceptible to many diseases.

Dingos sell for \$1,250 each plus transport cost from Texas.

For more information contact Martin Davey by phone at 972 693-3961.



Royal Palm turkeys have a showy look that features a dramatic combination of white and black.

Royal Palm Turkeys Provide Royal Pleasure

Royal Palm turkeys are one of the rarest of breeds but there's a lot more to them than good looks. Jennifer Philen says her birds are feisty enough to hunt rattlesnakes.

"I was washing out some waterers when I saw seven of them on our road making an alarm sound," she recalls. "I went over, and they had surrounded a rattlesnake. They've alerted me to three snakes in our yard so far."

She likes their showy looks, featuring a dramatic combination of white and black. For example, their pure white tail feathers have a band of black and an edge of white.

Philen also likes their temperament. "Every one I owned is sweet and docile." She says Royal Palms are not as meaty as a broad-breasted variety, but are meatier than a wild turkey. Some sources suggest the Royal

Palms are a small turkey with young toms only reaching a slaughter weight of 16 lbs. and young hens reaching 10 lbs. Philen says that is misleading. She has one tom that has reached 40 lbs.

Philen specializes in exotic poultry and ornamental pheasants. She sells breeding stock and poulters from the farm and will ship fertile eggs. Breeding stock can bring from \$25 to \$60 each, while poults bring \$8 to \$10 each. Price for breeding stock is based on color and how the bird carries itself. Eggs vary in price, but Philen asks \$5 each for hers.

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