

Electric Fence Safety

The Harvard Community Garden is surrounded by an electric fence to keep out deer. An electric fence can be a hazard if used improperly or by untrained persons. The following rules must be followed to maintain safety around the fence.

- 1. Do not touch any of the white ropes, or any metal that is in contact with the white ropes.**
- 2. Do not let children or infirm persons go near the fence when it is energized. *Toddlers do not perceive electrical shock as pain.***
- 3. Do not climb through or under the fence, or pick up objects on the ground near the fence.** For reasons not fully understood, contact with the spinal and head area is much worse than contact with hands, arms or legs.
- 4. Enter the garden only through the gates.**
- 5. Do not remove or adjust the energizer.** It is mounted on the South gate high out of reach of children, but can be hazardous if disturbed.
- 6. Be careful when holding or walking around with metal tools that may come in contact with the fence.**
- 7. Do not assume that you are invulnerable if you don't get a shock.** The energizer emits a brief jolt every 1.25 second, so if you happen to touch the fence quickly between jolts, you may not receive a shock.
- 8. All Harvard Community Garden members must become familiar with proper use of the electric fence and sign the GARDENER'S SIGNATURE & LIABILITY WAIVER before starting their garden.**