How to Deter Peacocks when they are Unwanted

A consistent use of deterrents -- no mixed messages- - can be very successful in keeping peacocks moving past your property and training them to avoid it altogether.

-Avoid plants they cannot resist - It's like putting candy in front of a child. See the attached list of what NOT to plant, as well as a list of beautiful plants that peacocks find distasteful.

-Keep your pet food indoors or out of reach.

-Aromatic Pepper -- both powdered red and fresh ground black-- is an excellent repellent to make an area uncomfortable to peacocks.

-Water is one of the best known deterrents for peacocks. A motion activated sprinkler, or a hose with a jet nozzle can be very effective to move the birds along. Avoid spraying right into the middle of a flock-family as this causes panic (and noise) as they try to regroup. Use the hose to urge them with a wide sweeping motion - off your property and in their intended direction of travel.

-To get them to leave an area, open your arms wide and approach them very slowly to herd them along their way. Walking quickly or scattering them will often result in panicked calls as they try to regroup.

-Just like other birds and wildlife, peacocks are attracted to seedlings and young plants. They can be distracted and dissuaded by the usual whirlygigs, strips of shiny paper and seed row covers.

-Another solution is to string a line of white twine tied onto sticks, suspended about 12 inches off the ground between plantings. Disposable chopsticks of bamboo or wood can be recycled for this purpose. A similar string line will also keep them off balconies and railings.

-Cover your compost.

- Plants infested with insects attract them. Watch to see if they are picking bugs off your plants rather than eating them.

- Do not water or hose off patios and walkways late in the day. This causes grubs and worms to come to the surface at the edge of the lawn where they can be dug up by other wildlife.