

Property Protection: Smart Fencing on a Budget

Those individuals that have chosen to [stay put during a time of crisis](#) should make their house and their property look a little run down.

It must have the appearance there is nothing of value there and you would be wasting time if you stopped there to search.

Cheap Ways to Build a Fence Without Surveillance Cameras or Other Electronic Equipment.

- Use naturally growing barriers. These must not be well trimmed. Let the grass grow high, have brown spots, and lots of weeds, or as much as you can within town codes. You can plant low level vines that do not get very tall, but can easily trip anyone up trying to navigate through the lawn or back yard.
- The best fence or barrier is one that does not look like one. Start from now to plant trees and shrubs that have thorns, spread out quickly horizontally, and make a thick natural barrier. The thicker and thornier the barrier the harder it will be for unwanted trespassers to get through it.

How to Use the Lay of the Land for Natural Fences and Defenses

Before building the natural fence look at the lay of the land. Is the property level or is it angled? Are there any steep drop offs, creeks, or other land or water features that would make it difficult for someone to enter the property?

If the property is at the top of a hill, then you control all land below. On the other hand if the property is below the crest of a hill or ridge there may be problems with other

people above being able to observe what is going on in your property.

You can mitigate this situation by planting a thick stand of Bamboo all the way around the property perimeter just inside the primary defensive wall. Other Bamboo stands should be planted in the back yard of the property to hide from view what is going on in the back yard and other staging areas. This Bamboo stand should be thick and dense enough to keep animals and people out.

How to use Thorny Bushes to Cover Your Property Perimeter

Spiny shrubs and trees, also often called Hedgerows, have been used for centuries to create [defensive barriers](#), pen up live stock, or used to build up and strengthen existing boundary fences. The only down fall for using plants is that it may take some time for the plants to reach maturity.

It is possible to build a natural thorn fence around your property line. The bushes need to grow thickly and reach a height of 6 to 7 feet. When building the barriers it is a good idea to use several types of plants, as well as ones that are immune to herbicides.

Best Plants When Fencing For Defense

Plant Name	Characteristics	Perimeter Area/Defense Line
Poison Ivy and Oak	These plants produce Urushiol Oil, which causes an allergic rash on contact. Remember the old safety saying for Poison Ivy and Poison Oak- "leaves of 3, let it be". Poison Ivy and Poison Oak can grow either as a single stem plant on the ground or as a climbing vine for buildings and fences.	In front of thorn barriers in order to deter people from trying to pass through the thorns.
Poison Sumac	Poison Sumac also produces Urushiol Oil. It has 3 to 6 leaves on each side of a central stem with a single leaf at the end. It grows as a bush, but can also reach several feet in height.	Especially good for areas where ground does not perk well.
Nettles and Sticker Burrs	Relatively low growing plants with sharp break away thorns.	These plants make an excellent secondary barriers. With their long and sharp thorns it is very painful to walk through a thicket of them. Mix with Poison Ivy and Oak in front of thorn barrier.
Cactus With Sharp Long Needles	Long sharp spines that can stick deeply through clothing and into the flesh below. If you should fall into a cactus garden you could end up with dozens of cactus needles that must be removed (did this once as a child and I will never forget the painful experience). The painful screams will alert anyone that is nearby.	Cactus (especially Prickly Pear) make a good deterrent when made into cactus gardens in blind spots or under windows.
Bamboo Stands	Bamboo grows quickly and densely to form a very good stockade wall. These walls average between 10 to 15 feet tall and will keep most humans and other large animals outside of the perimeter. When planting Bamboo trees, first dig a small trench in the yard surrounding the area where these trees will be planted. In the trench place cinder blocks tightly in one row side by side with the long portion down. Fill the trench in leaving about 3 to 4 inches of the cinder blocks out of the ground. Bamboo trees have shallow roots and this block wall will keep them growing in a thick defensive wall that does not thin out. It also keeps Bamboo from growing outside of the trench in areas where they are not wanted. Now that your perimeter is completed, begin planting the Bamboo starter plants with a 6 inch spacing between plants. Plant at least 6 rows, in an alternating pattern.	Use as Defensive Walls and screens.
Pyracanthas (Firethorn) bushes	Evergreen bush for hedges. It has long, sharp thorns, attractive flowers and red, yellow, or orange berries in the fall and winter.	Primary outer barriers, plant to a thickness of about 6 feet or more.
Osage Orange Bushes	The original barb wire. It can grow fast and interweave small branches to make an almost impenetrable barrier.	Primary outer barriers, plant to a thickness of 6 feet or more.
Hawthorn Trees (Thornapple Tree)	A member of the Rose family that has bright red edible fruits and sharp thorns. It has a long history of being used as a barrier.	Primary outer barriers, plant to a thickness of 6 feet or more.
Blackberry bushes	A very thorny, quick spreading bush that has very sharp thorns on all branches. It also bears a blue-black berry that is edible to humans and animals.	Secondary defensive natural barriers, plant to a thickness of 4-6 feet.
Climber or Rambling Rose bushes	These rose bushes grow quickly and can form an ideal mat of thorns	Secondary defensive natural barriers, plant to a thickness of 4-6 feet.
Barberries Bushes	Very fast growing and thorny bushes that reach 4 to 6 feet tall and wide	Secondary defensive natural barriers, plant to a thickness of 4-6 feet.
Elaeagnus Bushes	A fast growing large thorny Evergreen Bush that has a history of being used for animal and people barriers.	Primary outer barriers, plant to a thickness of 6 feet or more.
Holly Bushes and Trees	An Evergreen that has very sharp thorns on the tip of the leaves of the plant. Is quick growing and makes an excellent barrier plant.	Blind spots and under windows, plant to a thickness of 4-6 feet.

Access Control Through the Natural Thorny Barriers

Even though you may want to keep others out, being able to move freely across your own property lines is very important. You will need to decide where access points will be, as well as which ones to seal off completely.



- If there are any steep drop offs along the property line build a natural barrier fence at the top of the ravine that has plenty of sharp thorns. Loosen the soil to make it harder to climb up the bank and plant Poison Ivy or Poison Oak between the bottom of the ravine and the natural thorny defenses.
- For Pedestrian Traffic – keep a heavy locked outer gate. The pathway behind the gate should zig zag instead of in a straight path into the compound. A natural barrier to a second locked gate should eventually lead into the compound.
- For an Emergency Evacuation by Vehicle – There should be an emergency break out section that can only be activated from the inside perimeter. The pathway out should use the best lay of the land for concealment, vehicle speed, and safety.

If you are on a tight budget and are not going to bug out, you

can still [protect your property](#) by constructing an outer perimeter wall from thorny bushes. Start now so they will be grown to a good defensive height when the time comes. The outer defenses should project that there is nothing of value here and you would be wasting time if you tried to enter.

The real reason why most home defense plans don't work

Watch the video



*This article has been written by **Fred Tyrell** for [Survivopedia](#).*

Further Reading:

<http://www.pinterest.com/explore/natural-privacy-fences/>

<http://www.motherearthnews.com/homesteading-and-livestock/living-fences-zmaz10onzraw.aspx#axzz3CIc18V4u>

<http://www.hgtvremodels.com/outdoors/natural-fences-increase-our-homes-privacy-with-plants/index.html>

<http://www.coldstreamfarm.net/>