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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**SHARING
SECRETS**

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“How do you keep cats out of your yard?”

Who knew when we posed this query, it would evoke such passion and controversy? Some wondered how anyone could even ask such a question, while others were eager to share their diabolical remedies. Thanks to all who got catty with us!

You can always tell your neighbor to plant cat mint so the cats go to their gardens instead. Or you could use spiky plants in your gardens to keep out the kitties. - *KH*

It's best if you can secretly spray the cat with water or turn on the sprinkler (so they don't associate the action with you, otherwise they'll just run away whenever they see you).

If this isn't possible, try leaving fresh citrus rind or moth balls in areas they frequent. Continue to refresh them until the cat's habit changes and it finds a new hangout. - *DK*

Put rose prunings (thorny canes) along the loose dirt -- mean but effective. - *SG*

Use cocoa mulch -- they don't like the smell. - *DC*

Sprinkle chile powder in the garden where they are digging. Water in the evening -- they do not like to dig in wet soil! - *RD*

I don't have a real cure for cats but I do trap them, living in a neighborhood of cats. When we reach a critical mass of cats we put out our “have a heart trap.” If the cat isn't one of our neighbor's, we have the pound come and get the animal. If it is one of our neighbor's, we give it the water treatment instead, if it's a warm day. We gently hose the animal off a couple of times and that particular animal will avoid us for a while. We have let our neighbors know when we are trapping the cats and what we plan on doing. - *C*

Anonymous Contributors

Place tree netting on the ground and cover with mulch.

I keep my four cats out of my pots by covering the soil with rose prunings.

Put down pine cones, including in potted plants.

Create a border of spiky plants to stop them from crossing into your yard.

Arrange toothpicks or bury plastic forks in areas you want cats to avoid.

They don't like the scent of lemon balm or peppermint oil.