

When it comes to deer, the best scent is no scent

It has often been said that the best scent in deer hunting is no scent. A hint of truth rings true, but there is also a time and place for cover scents, urines and scrape products in deer hunting.

For hunting scents to be effective, they must be used in a manner that prevents it from being contaminated with human.

Before any scent product can be effective, human odor must be,

at the very least, managed.

Playing the wind

One of the most effective ways of controlling scent is to make sure the wind carries human odor away from the area that deer are expected to approach. A hunter should be conscious of wind direction.

Scent-blocking products

These products are designed to destroy human scent on clothing

and bodies by killing the bacteria that causes human body odor.

Many versions of these products are available; like clothes washes, hair and body soap, under-arm deodorant, bar soap, body bath and body gels.

Using these products in various combinations allows a hunter to reduce human odor at the source and on clothing.

Launder clothing in scent-control product, then hang them outside to prevent household odors from contaminating them.

Store in a plastic bag to prevent unwanted odors from collecting on your clothing.

Clothing picks up odors quickly so hunting clothes should only be worn in the field.

Cover scents

Cover scents are designed to mask or hide human odor.

The most common are animal urines but natural plant oils are also available.

Deer have a sense of smell approximately 400 times more acute than our own, which makes it a safe bet that they can smell more than one scent at a time.

Rubber boots

A simple piece of hunting equipment provides a foolproof scent control. A must have for

serious deer hunters, rubber completely blocks the transfer of human odor.

Knee-high rubber boots with pant legs tucked inside represents the minimum protection. Non-insulated and insulated boots are available for early and late-season hunting.

In dense cover, a hunter can get additional protection with hip boots. Taller hip-length boots prevent pant legs from brushing against limbs and leaving behind a scent trail.

Although too noisy to hunt in, a rubberized rain suit provides the hunter with a total scent blocking system when walking to and from a hunting area.

Also, many hunters wear rubber gloves when climbing into their treestand to prevent leaving a human scent trail or when handling scent products to keep from contaminating them with human odor.

Hunting scents

Sex-style scents are intended to be used to attract bucks during the pre-rut and rutting periods. It's during the few days leading up to the rut and during the rut that bucks are most interested in the scent of a receptive doe.

Both buck and doe urines are used to attract deer, make them

curious and less cautious. Urine is a whitetail deer calling card.

It can be used on boots as a trail scent, placed in runways to momentarily stop deer in locations that provide excellent shooting opportunities and added to natural or mock scrapes.

Deer lures are designed to be used in combination with natural or mock scrapes. Mock scrapes are intended to confuse local bucks into thinking a rival buck is in the area.

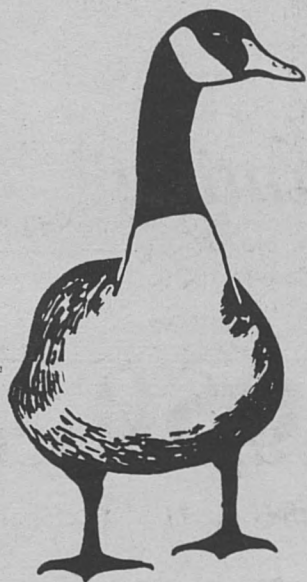
Select an area that offers a natural cover line for making a mock scrape. Areas like where a swamp borders dense brush or a cornfield meets a hardwood forest, find a spot where limbs or brush hang three to five feet above the ground. Use a rack or garden hoe and tear up a piece of earth 24 to 28 inches in diameter. Keep the scrape site free of human odor by wearing rubber gloves and boots and using scent-blocking products; take care not to rub against brush and other cover.

The smell of bare earth holds a natural attraction for deer, but use of deer lures can make the scrape even more attractive.

Some lure products come in liquid, granulated or gel form and, also, weatherproof products; as well as, new synthetic lures.

(See Scents, Page 22)

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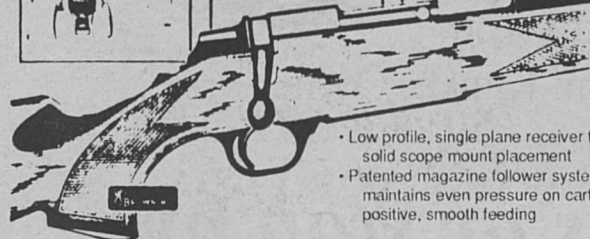
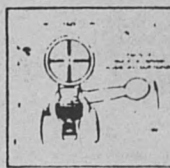
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Proper camouflage makes it easier to blend into background

Even if you're a long-time hunter, an experienced wing shot, or both, getting a clear shot in the field is a challenge. If you're not properly camouflaged while hunting waterfowl, it's nearly impossible.

Many duck and goose hunters have enjoyed success in the field with the standard tan camouflage developed by the military. But the science of camouflage has come a long way and today a variety of terrain-specific patterns are available that provide better concealment and a clear advantage.

The outdoor clothing experts at Columbia Sportswear recommend the Delta Marsh II camouflage pattern, which is available in Columbia's cold weather hunting garments. Delta Marsh II has a unique "cattails and cornstalks" design that was

specifically created for cornfields and river zones.

Its raindrop-like pattern forces the eye to roam, making it an extremely effective and versatile camo for both waterfowl and big game hunting. Columbia offers Delta Marsh II camo in a variety of garments for head-to-toe concealment.

The company's Omni Quad Parka, Pant and Bib have kept waterfowlers warm and dry for years and offer the versatility of being able to provide comfort in a variety of seasons, from Sept. teal to late Jan. goose hunting.

The popular Omni Widgeon Parka, Peterson's Marsh Parka and Fore and Aft Hunting Pack are also available in this exclusive camo pattern. Columbia also offers a variety of warm and weather-proof headgear in this pattern.



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