

Important Facts

1.

What is it? Synthetic or vegetative barriers create a visual buffer to keep prairie dogs out of unwanted areas. As a prey species, prairie dogs naturally avoid entering areas they cannot see through or over.

2.

Why should I use it? The use of barriers for coexistence with prairie dogs has been at the forefront of best management practices for at least two decades. While barriers may not always be 100% effective, they are particularly useful for preventing or mitigating the dispersal of colonies into conflict areas.

3.

How do I implement it? To be effective, barriers must provide both a visual and physical deterrent from the undesired location. Proper maintenance of the barrier can be crucial to its success.

Different Barrier Types for Different Project Needs

Synthetic

Manmade barriers typically stand at least 3 feet tall, are opaque, and include deterrents that discourage prairie dogs from climbing over or digging underneath the barrier. To discourage digging, do not allow light to penetrate underneath the barrier

Options include materials such as: masonry, metal, rock, wood, PVC, or vinyl

Vegetative

The best vegetative barriers are opaque, dense, and include a variety of species adapted to local conditions. Heterogeneity helps protect the barrier against diseases and ensures multi-season effectiveness.

Hardy Colorado plants to consider: rabbitbrush, juniper, big western sage, four-wing salt brush, and three-leaf sumac.

Combining Barrier Types

Combining vegetative with synthetic barriers can be aesthetically pleasing and may increase the efficacy of both barrier types! Keep in mind that barriers may need regular maintenance to be most effective.



Pro Tip! Avoid splitting coterries (family groups) and underground tunnels with either barrier type. In some cases, tunnels can be closed using passive relocation.