

Turtle Nest Protection Covers for Residents

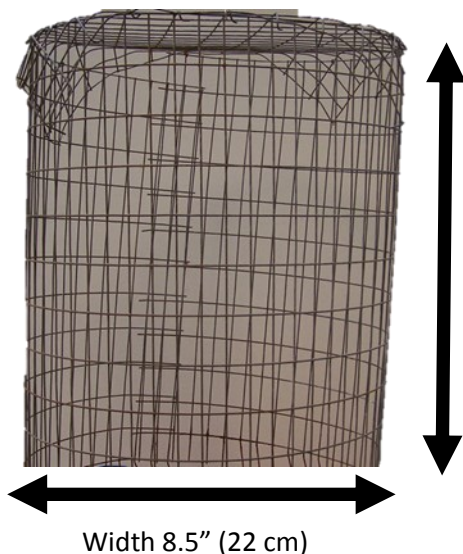
Predator prevention cages for diamondback terrapin and turtle nests

Use of Nest Covers

Nest predator protection is important for conservation projects to be successful. Predators including raccoon and fox will decimate an entire nesting area. A sturdy, well-anchored nest cover offers the best nest protection.

Specifications

- 1" (2.5 cm) x 2" (5 cm) rectangular openings
- 2.0 mm mesh (rigid)
- 12" (30 cm) tall x 8.5" (22 cm) wide
- Lid fastened by stainless hog rings



Installation

- We recommend digging the cover (rotating it) into the ground at a depth of few inches covering the center of the nest. It is important to install the base of the cover deeper into the ground if you have loose sand (for example, sand in new turtle nest enhancement area).
- Cage must be attached to each piece of 2' rebar tightly in two places, approximately 6" from top and 6" from bottom of cage, using baling wire, tightly secured (without any give), and twisting ends tightly using lineman's pliers and cutting off excess (see middle photo). Otherwise the cage will just lift out of the ground.
- When complete, the top of cage should be pulled upward vigorously to ensure the cage is securely in the ground. If it pulls out, it will be pulled out by a fox as well. You can mark your nest cover with date, etc...



Necessary supplies

- Hardware cloth (2' high roll), 2 mm thickness with 1" x 2" mesh (vinyl coated okay)
- Steel hog rings (approximately 15)
- Hog ring c-ring pliers, lineman's pliers with cutting capability, and rebar cutter (or hacksaw)
- Rebar spikes at least 5' in length x 3/8" diameter, at least two per cover
- Baling wire and a standard plier



Use 2mm thick hardware wire cloth with 1" x 2:" mesh openings to allow for hatchlings to escape.

Constructing the nest cover

Recommended Tools: Metal tin snips, lineman's pliers. Galvanized steel hog ring and c-ring plier, and work gloves..

You will need ~2mm thick hardware wire cloth with 2" x 1" openings at least 24 inches tall. Unroll the hardware cloth, roll out and cut a piece approximately 50" x 12" (4 cages) using lineman's pliers (cutter). Roll the piece to join ends. You can use the overlapping mesh to lock ends or use steel hog rings w/c-ring pliers.

Cut a 10" x 10" piece of mesh to construct a lid and use steel hog rings to secure to the cover. Bend the overlapping ends over the cover and secure with hog rings.



Nest covers were developed by Dr. Harold W. Avery, Drexel University 2006 and further refined by Dr. John Wnek, Project Terrapin 2020.