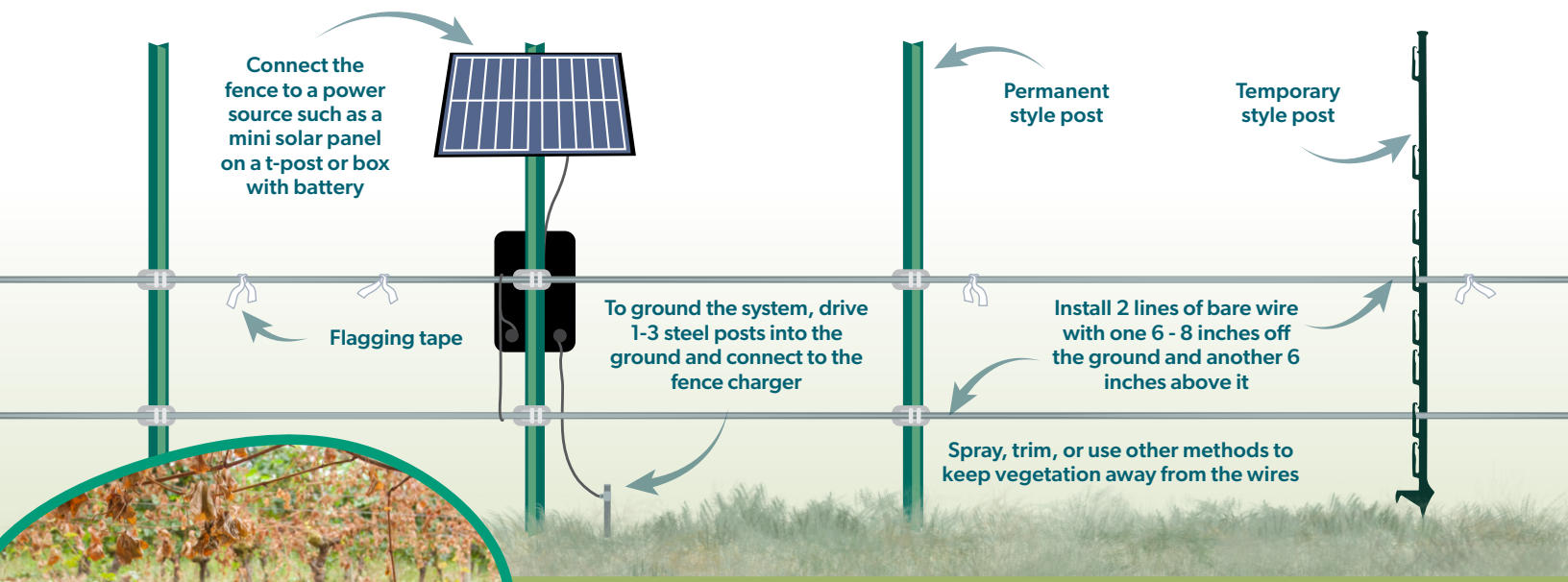# Crop Protection:
A beaver coexistence tool

Beavers provide many ecological benefits but can be frustrating for landowners if they start feeding on nearby crops. Crop protection using electric fencing is an immediate and cost-effective solution that can protect crops near waterways while allowing beavers to remain in their habitat.

Electric fences can be installed temporarily using step-in posts with built-in insulators or permanently using a system of t-posts with plastic insulators. They require both a simple grounding system and a power source—and will function well on either car batteries or a solar panel if AC power is not available.

Understand the risks!

- The low-laying wire can be a trip hazard to people, livestock, and other wildlife. Tie white flagging tape along the top wire to increase visibility.

- During hot and dry summers, electricity can easily start grass fires. Ensure that grass is well trimmed during these periods or consider turning off the fence during active fire bans.

- Consider whether solar panels have a high risk for theft in your area and plan accordingly.

Connect the fence to a power source such as a mini solar panel on a t-post or box with battery

Flagging tape

To ground the system, drive 1-3 steel posts into the ground and connect to the fence charger

Permanent style post

Temporary style post

Install 2 lines of bare wire with one 6 - 8 inches off the ground and another 6 inches above it

Spray, trim, or use other methods to keep vegetation away from the wires

ELECTRIC FENCE @GALLAGHER

Will crop protection work for you?

Crop protection with electric fencing works very well. In many cases, beavers will not try and return after a single encounter with the fence. Temporary fences can be used for rotating crops or to protect restoration planting. Permanent fences are recommended for orchards and vineyards. Steel mesh fences are also effective at excluding beavers from crops, though more costly. For situations where only certain trees require protection, refer to the tree protection infosheet.

For more information and references visit: projectbeaver.org

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