

## DEER FENCING

This week I visited a field of tomato, pepper, eggplant and assorted vine crops that was well protected from deer damage by a two-strand electric fence in an area with high deer pressure. The grower, Tim Gallagher of Coventry RI, pointed out several things that have made it work for him. He set it up before there was any feeding damage. Wherever possible he spaces the two



*Tim Gallagher connects strands of electric tape on a double fence separated by several feet*

strands of electric tape on separate sets of posts about three to four feet apart, with the outer strand at a lower level and the inner strand higher. The deer cannot easily tell the distance between the two strands and are more reluctant to jump the two fences than a single fence. This is not possible along the road, where he puts the two strands on one fence. Also he encircles a concentrated area and does not extend the fence for the whole field length, but leaves a pathway between his fruiting crops and his sweet corn. He notices tracks and feeding damage on the weeds in this alleyway, indicating the deer have used it. The deer will walk around a fenced area if it is not too long.

--R. Hazzard



*Photo 1: The grower leaves an alley between the fence and his sweet corn, to allow deer to pass through.*

*Photo 2: The grower leaves an alley between the fence and his sweet corn, to allow deer to pass through.*