

Some ways to control mice – which predate native skinks

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1. I think that, depending on where the lizard garden is and how big the garden is, putting poison bait out may not have much of an impact on the mice living there or coming into it- This is because there is sometimes a delay period of up to 2 weeks before a mouse dies after eating the bait (again, depending on how much bait it has eaten). If mice are constantly coming into the garden from outside, then baiting inside the garden wouldn't have any effect, unless you set up a 50 m buffer zone of bait stations around the outside of the garden!!!

If the garden is nearby the house and it is not too big, perhaps snap traps are the best? The snap traps would need to be "out of reach" of the lizards yet still open for mice though, as I have heard of skinks setting them off, unfortunately. Traps could be baited with peanut butter and elevated off the ground to reduce the likelihood of lizards getting into them.

2. The garden could also be "enhanced" so that the lizards have hiding places that mice can't get into. Perhaps try small brick or stone piles, stacked or piled in such a way that the gaps between are too small for mice- Lizards can squeeze into the tiniest of crevices so this shouldn't be too hard. Brick piles usually don't make the prettiest looking gardens so I'm sure you can find alternatives? Often these little piles can also be great for lizards to use as basking sites as well, and make great places to see the lizards in the garden as well.