

Gardening with Deer

Whether or not a particular plant species or variety will be eaten depends on the deer’s previous experience, nutritional needs, plant palatability, seasonal factors, weather conditions and the availability of alternative foods. Most damage occurs when winter snow cover has reduced food availability.

In addition to chemical repellents and physical barriers, like netting and fencing, selecting plant material that is not preferred by deer is yet another way to protect our valued landscapes. No plant will be avoided by deer under all conditions. The following is a guideline of suggested plants resistant to deer damage; however, your experiences may differ.

Annuals

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SUN REQUIREMENTS
Ageratum	Ageratum	Sun to part shade
Antirrhinum	Snapdragon	Sun to part shade
Borage	Starflower	Full sun
Tagetes	Marigold	Sun to part sun
Cytopogon	Lemon Grass	Full sun
Helichrysum hybridum	Strawflower	Full sun
Delosperma cooperi	Ice Plant	Full sun
Foeniculum vulgare	Fennel	Full sun
Rosmarinus officinalis	Rosemary	Full sun
Salvia	Sage	Sun to part shade
Santolina chamaecyparissus	Lavender Cotton	Full sun
Scabiosa	Pincushion Flower	Full sun

Jacobaea maritima	Dusty Miller	Full sun
Verbena	Verbena	Sun to part shade
Zantedeschia aethiopica	Calla Lily	Sun to part shade
Zinnia	Zinnia	Full sun

Perennials

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SUN REQUIREMENTS
Achillea	Yarrow	Sun to part shade
Ajuga reptans	Ajuga	Part shade to shade
Alchemilla	Lady’s Mantle	Sun to shade
Allium	Wild onion/ Chives	Sun to shade
Anemone	Anemone	Sun to part shade
Aquilegia	Columbine	Sun to shade
Artemisia	Wormwood	Sun to part shade
Asclepias incarnata	Butterfly Weed	Full sun
Astilbe	False Spirea	Full sun to part shade

Campanula	Bellflower	Part sun to shade
Centaurea cineraria	Dusty Miller	Sun to part shade
Convallaria majalis	Lily of the Valley	Sun to part shade
Delphinium	Larkspur	Full sun
Delosperma	Ice Plant	Part sun to shade
Dicentra	Bleeding Hearts	Part sun to shade
Digitalis	Foxglove	Sun to part shade
Echinacea	Coneflower	Sun to part shade
Epimedium	Barrenwort	Part sun to shade
Eupatorium	Joe Pye Weed	Sun to part shade
Euphorbia	Spurge	Full sun
Ferns	Fern	Part sun to shade
Galium odoratum	Woodruff	Part sun to shade
Geranium sanguineum	Bloody Crane’s-bill	Sun to part shade
Gypsophila paniculata	Baby’s Breath	Full sun
Helleborus	Hellebore	Part sun to shade
Iris	Iris	Sun to part shade

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Kniphofia uvaria	Red Hot Pokers	Full sun
Lamium maculatum	Dead Nettle	Part sun to shade
Lavender	Lavender	Full sun
Lobelia	Cardinal flower	Sun to part shade
Menthus	Mints	Sun to part shade
Monarda didyma	Bee Balm	Sun to part shade
Myosotis alpestris	Forget-me-nots	Part sun to shade
Narcissus	Daffodils	Sun to part shade
Nepeta	Cat mint	Sun to part shade
Oregano	Oregano	Sun to part shade
Pachysandra terminalis	Green Carpet	Shade to part sun
Paeonia	Peony	Full sun
Papaver nudicaule	Poppy	Sun to part shade
Perovskia atriplicifolia	Russian Sage	Sun to part shade
Phlox subulata	Creeping Phlox	Sun to part shade
Rheum	Ornamental Rhubarb	Sun to part shade
Rudbeckia hirta	Black-eyed Susan	Sun to part shade
Salvia officinalis	Meadow Sage	Sun to part shade
Sempervivum	Hen and Chicks	Full sun
Stachys	Lamb's Ear	Sun to part shade
Germander	Wall Germander	Sun to part shade
Thalictrum	Meadow-rues	Sun to part shade

Thymus	Thyme	Sun to part shade
Tradescantia virginiana	Spiderwort	Sun to part shade
Verbascum	White Nettle	Full sun
Yucca	Adam's Needle	Sun to part shade

Grasses

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SUN REQUIREMENTS
Calamagrostis acutiflora	Feather Reed Grass	Sun to part shade
Festuca glauca	Blue Fescue	Full sun
Miscanthus sinensis	Maiden Grass	Full sun

Vines

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Celastrus scandens	American Bittersweet
Clematis	Clematis
Hedra helix	English Ivy
Ipomoea	Morning Glory
Lonicera	Honeysuckle
Parthenocissus	Boston Ivy
Vitis	Grape
Wisteria	Wisteria

Shrubs

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Berberis thunbergii	Barberry
Buxus	Boxwood
Calycanthus floridus	Carolina Allspice
Caryopteris	Bluebeard
Clethra alnifolia	Summersweet
Cornus	Dogwood
Cotinus coggygria	Smokebush
Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster
Deutzia	Deutzia
Diervilla	Bush Honeysuckle
Euonymus	Euonymus
Forsythia	Forsythia
Hamamelis	Witch Hazel
Hypericum	St. John's Wort
Ilex	Holly
Itea virginica	Sweetspire
Juniperus	Juniper
Ligustrum	Privet
Picea	Spruce
Potentilla fruticosa	Potentilla
Ribes	Currant
Spiraea	Spirea
Symphoricarpos alba	Snowberry
Syringa vulgaris	Common Lilac

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Trees

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Acer palmatum	Japanese maple
Betula	Birch
Catalpa	Catalpa
Cercis canadensis	Redbud
Ginkgo biloba	Ginkgo
Gleditsia triacanthos	Honey Locust
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip Tree
Metasequoia glyptostoboides	Dawn Redwood
Picea	Spruce
Pinus	Pine
Syringa reticulata	Japanese Tree Lilac
Taxodium distichum	Baldcypress

***Trees listed here are resistant to deer browsing. No tree is resistant to the damage of bucks rubbing their antlers during mating season.*