

Planning and Planting A DEER-RESISTANT GARDEN

Valley View Farms



Frustrated gardeners will be pleased to learn that careful planting and basic repellents can keep a garden lush, beautiful and possibly deer-free! While deer have been known to damage a wide variety of ornamentals, crops and trees by feeding or trampling, there are a few simple precautions the local gardener can take to protect his or her plantings from the deer population.

The only way to guarantee protection from deer damage is to fence them out with a solidly constructed barrier at least 8-feet high. A 6-foot fence can deter deer if they can not see to the other side or it is carefully slanted to thwart them. Deer will jump a fence only if they have clearance to land.

If fencing is not an option, it is essential to plant "deer-resistant" plants and to use repellents as effective deterrents, either contact (applied to the plants, repelling by taste and smell) or area (repelling by smell). Spraying many different repellents on a rotating basis helps break deer behavior patterns or movements. Please visit our Garden Shop and talk to one of our staff members for product recommendations.

Planting based on deer behavior patterns provides an alternative to chemical repellents or unsightly barriers. Whether or not a plant will be "deer-resistant" depends on the availability of other foods, the deer's experience in the area, nutritional needs and seasonal factors.

In general, deer avoid fuzzy, spiky and prickly plants, and they tend to steer clear of plants with strong or pungent aromas. Poisonous plants keep deer away, as do grasses and ferns and mints in general. Oftentimes, simply planting a pungent, fuzzy plant like lavender or salvia around a "deer-ly" loved plant may keep them away.

REMEMBER: DEER-RESISTANT ≠ DEER-PROOF. Deer adapt to whatever food source is available.

The following list is intended to provide the local gardener with a variety of choices that deer would likely avoid; it is not a guaranteed list.

PERENNIALS/BIENNIALS

Acanthus (bear's breeches)
 Achillea (yarrow)
 Aconitum (monkshood)
 Acorus (sweet flag)
 Actaea/Cimicifuga (bugbane)
 Agastache (Hyssop)
 Allium (ornamental onion)
 Amsonia (bluestar)
 Anemone (Japanese)
 Arabis (rock cress)
 Artemisia (wormwood)
 Arum
 Aruncus (goatsbeard)
 Asarum (ginger)
 Aubretia (false rock cress)
 Aurinia (gold alyssum)
 Astilbe (false spirea)
 Baptisia (False Indigo)
 Bergenia (Pigsqueak)
 Brunnera (Siberian Bugloss)
 Campsis (trumpet vine)
 Carex (sedge)
 Caryopteris (bluebeard)
 Crocosmia (monbretia)
 Convallaria (lily-of-the-valley)
 Delphinium

Dianthus (pinks)
 Dicentra (bleeding heart)
 Digitalis (foxglove)
 Echinacea (coneflower)
 Echinops (globe thistle)
 Epimedium. (barrenwort)
 Eryngium (sea holly)
 Euphorbia (cushion spurge)
 Ferns
 Filipendula (meadow sweet)
 Gaillardia (blanket flower)
 Gentiana (gentian)
 Geranium macrorrhizum
 Grasses, Ornamental
 Hakonechloa (Jap. forest grass)
 Hedera (English ivy)
 Helleborus (Hellebore)
 Hesperis matronalis (dame's rocket)
 Heuchera (coral bells)
 Heucherella (foamy bells)
 Hypericum (St John's wort)
 Iris
 Lamium (dead nettle)
 Lavandula (lavender)
 Lonicera (honeysuckle)
 Lychnis coronaria (rose campion)

Monarda (bee balm)
 Nepeta (catmint)
 Opuntia (prickly pear cactus)
 Origanum (ornamental oregano)
 Paeonia (peony)
 Papaver (poppy)
 Perovskia (Russian sage)
 Podophyllum (may apple)
 Polygonatum (solomon's seal)
 Potentilla (creeping cinquefoil)
 Pycnanthemum (mountain mint)
 Rohdea (sacred lily)
 Salvia (sage)
 Santolina (lavender cotton)
 Senecio (golden ragwort)
 Sisyrinchium (blue-eyed grass)
 Solidago (goldenrod)
 Stachys (lamb's ears)
 Thymus (creeping thyme)
 Tiarella (foam flower)
 Tradescantia (spiderwort)
 Verbena bonariensis
 (Brazilian verbena)
 Viola (fragrant varieties)
 Waldsteinia (barron strawberry)

BULBS

Allium
 Canna
 Calla Lily
 Colocasia (elephant ear)
 Crocus

Fritillaria
 Galanthus (snowdrops)
 Gladiolus
 Gloriosa superba (glory lily)
 Hyacinth

Muscari (grape hyacinth)
 Narcissus (daffodil)
 Oxalis (wood sorrel)
 Scilla siberica (Siberian squill)

ANNUALS

Abutilon (flowering maple)	Gomphrena (globe amaranth)	Pennisetum (fountain grass)
Ageratum	Fiber Optic Grass	Plumbago
Alyssum	Helichrysum (strawflower)	Salvia
Angelonia	Heliotrope	Snapdragon
Brugmansia/Datura (Angel's trumpet)	Hyssop	Spilanthes (toothache plant)
Celosia (cock's comb)	Lantana	Strobilanthes (Persian shield)
Cleome (spider flower)	Lobelia	Torenia (wishbone flower)
Cuphea (Mexican heather)	Lotus vine	Verbena
Dusty Miller	Marguerite Daisy	Vinca
Euphorbia	Nicotiana	Zinnia
Geranium	Ornamental pepper	

HERBS

Most herbs are deer-resistant with the exception of Jasmine, Lovage, Parcel, Watercress, and Woodruff

SHRUBS

Berberis sp. (Barberry)	Hibiscus syriacus (Rose of Sharon)	Prunus laurocerasus (Cherry Laurel)
Buddleia sp. (Butterfly Bush)	Hypericum prolificum (St. John's Wort)	Prunus laurocerasus 'Schipkaensis' (Skip Laurel)
Buxus sempervirens (Boxwood)	Ilex aquifolium (English Holly)	Pyracantha coccinea (Firethorn)
Callicarpa sp. (Beautyberry)	Ilex comuta (Chinese Holly)	Rhus aromatica (Fragrant Sumac)
Calycanthus floridus (Common Sweetshrub)	Ilex verticillata (Winterberry Holly)	Ribes sp. (Currant)
Caryopteris clandonensis (Blue Mist)	Itea virginica (Virginia Sweetspire)	Sambucus canadensis (Blueberry/Sweet Elder)
Cephalotaxus harringtonia (Japanese Plum Yew)	Juniperus (Juniper)	Sambucus racemosa (Red Elderberry)
Chaenomeles japonica (Japanese Flowering Quince)	Kerria japonica (Japanese Kerria)	Sarcococca hookeriana (Sweet Box)
Clethra sp. (Sweet Pepperbush)	Lagerstroemia indica (Crape Myrtle)	Skimmia japonica
Cornus alba (Red Twigged Dogwood)	Leucothoe axillaris (Coast Leucothoe)	Spiraea japonica
Cornus sericea (Red Osier Dogwood)	Leucothoe fontanesiana (Drooping Leucothoe)	Spiraea prunifolia
Corylus sp. (Hazelnut)	Ligustrum sp. (Privet)	Spiraea x bumalda (Anthony Waterer Spirea)
Cotinus coggygria (Smokebush)	Lindera benzoin (Spicebush)	Syringa vulgaris (Common Lilac)
Cotoneaster	Magnolia x soulangiana (Saucer Magnolia)	Viburnum carlesii (Koreanspice Viburnum)
Cytisus sp. (Broom)	Mahonia	Viburnum opulus (Cranberry Bush)
Daphne sp. (Daphne)	Microbiota decussata (Russian Cypress)	Viburnum plicatum tomentosum (Doublefile Viburnum)
Deutzia sp. (Deutzia)	Myrica pensylvanica (Bayberry)	Viburnum rhytidophyllum (Leatherleaf Viburnum)
Enkianthus campanulatus (Redvein Enkianthus)	Osmanthus	Viburnum x juddii (Judd Viburnum)
Erica sp. (Heather)	Philadelphus coronarius (Sweet Mock Orange)	Weigela florida (Weigela)
Forsythia x intermedia (Forsythia)	Pieris japonica (Andromeda)	
Fothergilla sp. (Fothergillia)	Pinus mugo (Mugo Pine)	
Hamamelis virginiana (Common Witchhazel)	Potentilla fruticosa (Bush Cinquefoil)	

TREES

Acer griseum (Paperbark Maple)	Cornus kousa (Kousa Dogwood)	Picea glauca (White Spruce)
Acer palmatum (Japanese Maple)	Cryptomeria japonica (Japanese Cedar)	Picea omorika (Serbian Spruce)
Acer rubrum (Red Maple)	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	Picea pungens (Colorado Blue Spruce)
Amelanchier canadensis (Shadbush)	Hawthorn	Pinus strobus (Eastern White Pine)
Amelanchier laevis (Allegheny Serviceberry)	Ilex x aquipernyi (Dragon Lady, San Jose Holly)	Pinus sylvestris (Scotch Pine)
Asimina triloba (Pawpaw)	Juniperus virginiana (Eastern Red Cedar)	Pinus thunbergiana (Japanese Black Pine)
Cercidiphyllum japonicum (Katsura tREE)	Koelreuteria paniculata (Goldenrain Tree)	Prunus serrulata (Japanese Flowering Cherry)
Chaenomeles speciosa (Common Flowering Quince)	Liriodendron tulipifera (Tulip Tree)	Salix (Willow)
Chamaecyparis pisifera (Japanese Falsecypress)	Metasequoia glyptostroboides (Dawn Redwood)	
Chionanthus retusus (Chinese Fringe Tree)	Picea abies (Norway Spruce)	
	Picea glauca (Dwarf Alberta Spruce)	