

# Deer Resistant Plants

*Most gardeners will agree that these lovely creatures aren't so lovely when they wander through the garden eating our favourite plants. They can do considerable damage to gardens and there are various ways to discourage or repel them. One way is to grow plants that deer find unpalatable. However these furry friends enjoy a little variety in their menu; one year they may not like some of the plants we have suggested, but may feast on them the next year!*

*They also change their eating habits when other food sources are scarce. In our area deer population can be high, causing them to browse on plants they might normally avoid. Keeping the above in mind, here is a list of plants that deer will almost never eat.*

Note: The plants with a check ✓ are deer resistant once mature, but must be protected while young (see tip #2). Plants marked with an asterisk \* are best bets.

## PERENNIALS

Achillea  
Acanthus (Bear's Breeches)  
Aconitum (Monkshood)  
Anemone hybrida (Japanese Anemone)  
\*Anthemis (Yellow Fern Leaf Daisy)  
\*Arabis  
\*Artemisia  
Aster alpinus (Dwarf Aster)  
\*Aubretia  
Brunnera  
Centaurea montana (Perennial Bachelor's Button)  
\*Cerastium (Snow-in-Summer)  
\*Chrysanthemum superbum (Shasta Daisy)  
Coreopsis (Tick Seed)  
Crocsmia  
Cynarea (Artichoke)  
Dianthus deltoides (Maiden Pink)

Dicentra (Bleeding Heart)  
\*Digitalis (Foxglove)  
\*Euphorbia  
Epimedium  
Eschscholzia californica (Calif. Poppy)  
\*Ferns  
\*Grasses  
Gaillardia (Blanket Flower)  
Gunnera  
Helleborus (Hellebore)  
\*Iberis (Candytuft)  
\*Iris  
Kniphofia (Red Hot Poker)  
\*Lavendula (Lavender)  
\*Linaria purpurea Canon J. Went (pink form)  
Lupinus (Lupine)  
\*Lychnis coronaria (Rose Campion)  
Liriope (Lily Turf)  
Oxalis

\*Ophiopogon planiscapus (Mondo Grass)  
Papaver (Poppies)  
Salvia (Perennial types only)  
\*Santolina (Lavender Cotton)  
\*Saponaria ocymoides (Soap Wort)  
\*Senecio  
\*Sisyrinchium (Blue-eyed Grass)  
\*Stachys byzantina (Lambs Ears)  
Verbascum (mullein) wooly leaf types  
Zantedeschia (Calla)

### TIP #1

Commercial repellents can work if sprayed often enough to keep new growth covered and to replace what rain and watering wash away. Do not apply repellents to edible portions of plants unless approved on the label; some are not safe to eat.

## VINES & GROUNDCOVERS

### TIP #2

While there are many plants that are "deer candy" such as roses, pansies and hosta, protective netting can be used in the spring when growth is tender, and then again briefly in the fall when deer are trying to put on extra pounds for the winter. This will substantially widen the range of suitable plants for deer country.

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi (Kinnickinik)  
✓ Clematis (all types)  
\*Cymbalaria muralis (Kennilworth Ivy)  
\*Erica (Heather)  
Euonymus spp  
\*Fragaria chiloensis (Wild Beach Strawberry)  
\*Galium odoratum (Sweet Woodruff)  
\*Gaultheria procumbens (Wintergreen)  
\*Genista pilosa 'Vancouver Gold'

Hypericum (St. John's Wort)  
Jasminum polyanthum (Jasmine)  
Jasminum officinale (Jasmine)  
\*Juniperus (Juniper)  
\*Lamium maculatum  
\*Mentha pulegium (Pennyroyal)  
\*Satureja douglasii (Yerba buena)  
\*Thymus (Thyme)  
Trachelospermum (Star Jasmine)

# GARDENWORKS

# Deer Resistant Plants

## TREES AND SHRUBS

\*Abies (fir)  
Acer circinatum (Vine Maple)  
Albizia julibrissin (Mimosa Tree)  
✓Arbutus menziesii (Pacific Madrone)  
✓Arbutus unedo (Strawberry Tree)  
Berberis (Barberry)  
\*Buxus (Boxwood)  
\*Calluna vulgaris (Scotch Heather)  
\*Cedrus (Cedar)  
\*Choisya ternata (Mexican Mock Orange)  
\*Cistus (Rock Rose)  
Ceanothus spp. (California Lilac)  
\*Cotoneaster  
\*Cryptomeria  
Daphne  
Escallonia  
\*Eucalyptus  
Hamamelis (Witch Hazel)  
\*Ilex (Holly)  
\*Juniperus  
Kerria japonica  
\*Kolkwitzia (Beauty Bush)  
\*Lithodora  
Magnolia grandiflora (evrgrn. Magnolia)  
\*Mahonia (Oregon Grape)  
Yucca  
✓Nandina spp. (Heavenly Bamboo)  
Osmanthus  
\*Phormium (New Zealand Flax)  
\*Picea (Spruce)  
\*Pinus (Pine)  
\*Potentilla  
\*Rhododendrons  
Rhus typhina (Staghorn Sumac)  
Skimmia  
Taxus (Yew)  
\*Trachycarpus (Windmill Palm)

## BULBS

Agapanthus (Lily-of-the-Nile)  
Freesia  
Galanthus (Snowdrop)  
Iris danfordiae  
Iris douglasiana  
Iris (German & Siberian)  
Iris reticulata  
Leucojum (Glory of the Snow)  
Narcissus (Daffodil)  
Ornithogalum can be invasive  
Scilla (Bluebell)  
Tuberous Begonia

### TIP #3

Some gardeners repel deer by hanging small cloth bags filled with blood meal among the plants the deer seem to be attracted to; disadvantages are that blood meal attracts dogs and smells unpleasant when wet.

## ANNUALS

\*Ageratum (Floss Flower)  
Begonia, (Tuberous)  
\*Calendula (Pot Marigold)  
Catharanthus (Madagascar Periwinkle)  
Clarkia amoena (Godetia)  
\*Impatiens  
\*Mimulus (Monkey Flower)  
\*Myosotis (Forget-me-not)  
\*Papaver rhoeas (Shirley Poppy)  
Verbena  
\*Zinnia

### TIP #4

Strongly-scented kitchen herbs are often overlooked by browsing deer, because their tastes are too strong (and therefore offensive) to their sensitive tongues, with the exception of *Ocimum basilicum* (Basil)

## HERBS

\*Lavandula spp. (Lavender)  
\*Mentha (Mint)  
\*Mentha pulegium (Pennyroyal)  
\*Nepeta cataria (Catnip)  
\*Origanum vulgare (Oregano)  
\*Origanum majorana (Marjoram)  
\*Rosemarinus officinalis (Rosemary)  
\*Ruta graveolens (Rue)  
\*Salvia officinalis (Sage)  
\*Santolina  
\*Thymus (Thyme)

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