

# Deer Resistant Plants

Deer can cause a great deal of damage to a garden in a very short time. One way to minimize the impact deer have on your landscape is to plant deer resistant plants and avoid using plants that deer are known to prefer.

This list covers some options for deer resistant plants, rated by how frequently they are known to be damaged: “rarely” and “occasionally”. Keep in mind that a few factors can affect whether or not deer eat certain plants, and when under extreme stress from starvation deer will eat almost anything.

Plants that deer tend to avoid have some characteristics that can help you identify possible deer-resistant plants not on this list.

- Plants with thorny or prickly leaves or stems
- Plants with strong scents and pungent tastes, such as herbs
- Plants that are poisonous or produce thick, latex-like sap
- Plants with hairy leaves

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Trees-Rarely Damaged	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Bottlebrush Buckeye	<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>
Mimosa	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>
River Birch	<i>Betula Nigra</i>
Deodar Cedar	<i>Cedrus deodara</i>
Katsura Tree	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus spp.</i>
Japanese Cedar	<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>
Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>
American Holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>
Eastern Redcedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Crape Myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia hybrids</i>
Southern Magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>
Sweetbay Magnolia	<i>Magnolia virginica</i>
Black Gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>
Dwarf Alberta Spruce	<i>Picea glauca 'Conica'</i>
Pines	<i>Pinus spp.</i>
Carolina Cherrylaurel	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>
Japanese Flowering Cherry	<i>Prunus serrulata</i>
Live Oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>
Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
Chastetree	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>

Trees-Occasionally Damaged	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Firs	<i>Abies spp.</i>
Japanese Maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i>
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>
Flowering Quince	<i>Chaenomeles spp.</i>
Japanese Falsecypress	<i>Chamaecyparis pisifera</i>
Chinese Fringetree	<i>Chionanthus retusus</i>
Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>
Kousa Dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>
Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis spp.</i>
Foster's Holly	<i>Ilex x attenuata</i>
Nellie Stevens Holly	<i>Ilex x 'Nellie Stevens'</i>
Goldenrain Tree	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>
Saucer Magnolia	<i>Magnolia soulangiana</i>
Dawn Redwood	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>
Bradford Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>
Oaks	<i>Quercus spp.</i>
Willows	<i>Salix spp.</i>

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# Deer Resistant Plants cont.

Shrubs-Rarely Damaged	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Abeila	<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i>
Japanese Barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleia spp.</i>
Japanese Boxwood	<i>Buxus microphylla</i>
Sweetshrub	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>
Beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>
Blue Mist Shrub	<i>Caryopteris x clandonensis</i>
Japanese False Yew	<i>Cephalotaxus harringtoniana</i>
Summersweet	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>
Deutzia	<i>Deutzia gracilis</i>
Eleagnus	<i>Eleagnus pungens</i>
Fothergilla	<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>
Gardenia	<i>Gardenia jasminoides</i>
Chinese Holly	<i>Ilex cornuta</i>
Inkberry Holly	<i>Ilex glabra</i>
Yaupon Holly	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>
Anise	<i>Illicium spp.</i>
Winter Jasmine	<i>Jasminum nudiflorum</i>
Juniper	<i>Juniperus spp.</i>
Kerria	<i>Kerria japonica</i>
Leucothoe	<i>Leucothoe spp.</i>
Japanese Privet	<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>
Loropetalum	<i>Loropetalum chinensis</i>
Wax myrtle	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>
Nandina	<i>Nandina domestica</i>
Tea Olive	<i>Osmanthus fragrans &amp; O. heterophyllus</i>
Pyracantha	<i>Pyracantha spp.</i>
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>
Sweet Box	<i>Sarcococca spp.</i>
Spring Blooming Spirea	<i>Spiraea spp.</i>
Yucca	<i>Yucca spp.</i>

Shrubs-Occasionally Damaged	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Camellias	<i>Camellia spp.</i>
Smokebush	<i>Cotinus coggyria</i>
Forsythia	<i>Forsythis x intermedia</i>
Rose of Sharon	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>
Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea spp.</i>
Japanese Holly	<i>Ilex crenata</i>
Virginia Sweetspire	<i>Itea virginica</i>
Mahonia	<i>Mahonia bealei</i>
Deciduous Azaleas	<i>Rhododendron spp.</i>
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron spp.</i>
Viburnum	<i>Viburnum spp.</i>
Weigela	<i>Weigela florida</i>

Vines and Groundcovers-Rarely Damaged	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Bugleweed	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>
Crossvine	<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>
Carolina Jessamine	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>
Coral Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>
Mondo Grass	<i>Ophiopogon japonicas</i>
Star Jasmine	<i>Trachelospermum asiaticum</i>
Confederate Jasmine	<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i>
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major &amp; V. minor</i>

Vines and Groundcovers-Occasionally Damaged	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Trumpet Vine	<i>Campsis radicans</i>
Goldflame Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera x heckrottii</i>
Liriope	<i>Liriope spp.</i>
Virginia Creeper	<i>Parthanocissus quinquefolia</i>
Lady Banks Rose	<i>Rosa banksia</i>
Japanese Wisteria	<i>Wisteria Floribunda</i>

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# Deer Resistant Plants cont.

Perennials-Rarely Damaged			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Yarrow	<i>Achillea spp.</i>	Red Hot Poker	<i>Kniphofia spp.</i>
Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla spp.</i>	Lantana	<i>Lantana spp.</i>
Blue Star	<i>Amsonia spp.</i>	Blazing Star	<i>Liatris spp.</i>
Japanese Anemone	<i>Anemone x hybrida</i>	Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia spp.</i>	Virginia Bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>
Sea Thrift	<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Bee Balm	<i>Monarda spp.</i>
Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Catmint	<i>Nepeta spp.</i>
Cast Iron Plant	<i>Aspidistra elatior</i>	Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia spp.</i>
Aster	<i>Aster spp.</i>	Ornamental Grasses	<i>Many Species</i>
Astilbe	<i>Astilbe spp.</i>	Oriental Poppy	<i>Papaver orientale</i>
False Indigo	<i>Baptisia spp.</i>	Russian Sage	<i>Perovskia spp.</i>
Bergenia	<i>Bergenia cordata</i>	Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium caeruleum</i>
Leadwort	<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	Black Eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>
Green and Gold	<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>	Texas Sage	<i>Salvia greggii</i>
Tickseed	<i>Coreopsis spp.</i>	Meadow Sage	<i>Salvia nemerosa</i>
Crocoshmia	<i>Crocoshmia spp.</i>	Hens and Chicks	<i>Sempervivum spp.</i>
Dianthus	<i>Dianthus spp.</i>	Goldenrod	<i>Solidago rugosa</i>
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Lamb's Ear	<i>Stachys byzantia</i>
Joe Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium dubium</i>	Stoke's Aster	<i>Stokesia laevis</i>
Ferns	<i>Many species</i>	Foam Flower	<i>Tiarella spp.</i>
Gaura	<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i>	Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia spp.</i>
Blanket Flower	<i>Gaillardia spp.</i>	Toad Lily	<i>Tricyrtis hirta</i>
Lenten Rose	<i>Helleborus orientalis</i>	Trillium	<i>Trillium spp.</i>
Coralbells	<i>Heuchera spp.</i>	Mullein	<i>Verbascum spp.</i>
St. John's Wort	<i>Hypericum calycinum</i>	Speedwell	<i>Veronica spp.</i>
Candytuft	<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>		

Perennials-Occasionally Damaged			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Shasta Daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum superbum</i>	Phlox	<i>Phlox spp.</i>
Ice Plant	<i>Delosperma cooperi</i>	Sedum	<i>Sedum spp.</i>
Hardy Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Verbena	<i>Verbena canadensis</i>
Iris	<i>Iris spp.</i>		

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## Deer Resistant Plants cont.

Annuals-Rarely Damaged	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Ageratum	<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>
Snapdragons	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>
Wax Begonia	<i>Begonia semperflorens</i>
Cleome	<i>Cleome hassleriana</i>
Coleus	<i>Solenostemon scutellaroides</i>
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>
Heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium arborescens</i>
Polka Dot Plant	<i>Hypoestes phyllostachya</i>
Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>
Lobelia	<i>Lobelia erinus</i>
Melampodium	<i>Melampodium padulosum</i>
Pentas, Starflower	<i>Pentas lanceolata</i>
Petunia	<i>Petunia spp.</i>
Plectranthus	<i>Plectranthus spp.</i>
Mealycup Sage	<i>Salvia farniacea</i>
Marigold	<i>Tagetes spp.</i>
Silverleaf	<i>Helichrysum angustifolium</i>
Vinca	<i>Catharanthus rosea</i>
Dusty Miller	<i>Senecio cineraria</i>
Zinnia	<i>Zinnia spp.</i>



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