

# Deer Resistant Plants

Over the course of a few nights, deer can devastate your garden landscape. Although deer tend to avoid some plants while relishing others, no plant can be guaranteed to be "deer-proof". However, some types of plants are less tasty to a deer. One of the easiest ways to reduce deer damage in your yard is to landscape with plants deer prefer not to eat.

This brochure can be used as a guide for choosing plants resistant to deer feeding.

When choosing deer resistant plants for your garden, keep in mind some of the common characteristics of plants that deer prefer not to eat.



## Poisonous Plants

In what should come as no surprise, deer tend to stay away from poisonous plants. Daffodils and Oleander, are common plants that have a toxicity that deer avoid.



## Thorny or Prickly Plants

Deer like to avoid eating plants that hurt when you chew them. American Holly is a great example of a plant that deer try to avoid munching on.



## Fragrant Plants

Deer turn their noses up at plants with strong scents. Plants such as Peonies, Lavender, and Bearded Iris are just to "stinky" to deer.



## Plants with Thick Sap

Deer do not like plants that produce thick, latex-like sap.

# Deer in Your Garden

## What do deer like to eat?

Deer love to eat narrow-leaf evergreens, with arborvitae and fir being particularly tasty treats. Deer also show a preference for daylilies and hostas.



Over watered plants are particularly lush and appealing and studies show that over fertilized plants tend to be more appetizing to deer.

## Deer Resistant Does Not Mean Deer Proof



No plant is deer proof! Hungry, deer will eat just about anything to survive. During harsh winters, or in time of drought, plants that are usually avoided will be looked on as more appealing and damaged by feeding deer.



Deer prefer tender new growth that is soft to the touch and high in water content. They especially love to eat flower buds.



Even when deer aren't grazing on your landscape, they can cause some serious problems. Deer like to rub against bark with their antlers causing damage to young trees or those with thin bark.



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Your guide to **Deer Resistant Plants**





# Deer Resistant Plants

Deer quickly become your least favorite backyard visitor when they start grazing on everything from the arborvitae to your favorite flowers. A shift in your landscaping to some of their least favorite plants may help you to curb their enthusiasm for hanging out in your garden. Whitetail deer are prolific in the mid-atlantic and northeast. They can be found even in cities and suburban towns. They like to eat the growing tips of shrubs, trees, and other plants. During February and March when snowcover fades, temperatures rise, and sunlight hours noticeably increase, deer are out in droves eating almost anything edible trying to regain calories lost during winter.

# Favorite Deer Treats

The following plants are particularly favored by deer. Avoid planting them unless you like having deer over for supper on a regular basis.

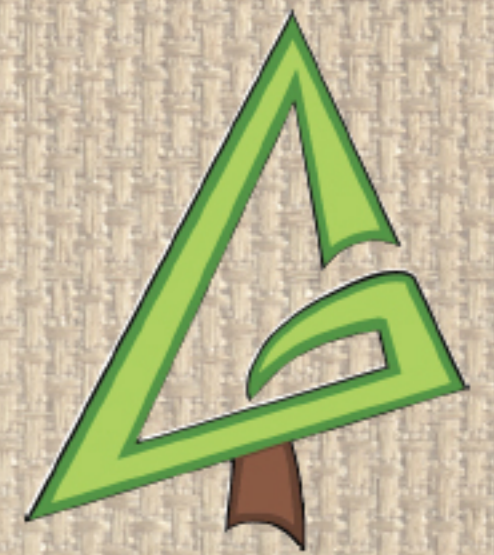


- Apples and Crabapple *Malus* Species
- Arborvitae *Thuja Occidentalis*
- Atlantic White Cedar *Chamaecyparis Thyoides*
- Azaleas *Rhododendron* Species
- Blueberries *Vaccinium* Species
- Burning Bush *Euonymus Alata*
- Cherries and Plums *Prunus* Species
- Clematis *Clematis* Species and Hybrids
- Daylilies *Hemerocallis* Species and Hybrids
- English Ivy *Hedera Helix*
- Hosta *Hosta* Species and Varieties
- Japanese Euonymous *Euonymous Japonicus*
- Roses *Rosa* Species and Hybrids
- Wintercreeper *Euonymous Fortunel*

# Moderately Resistant Plants

The following plants are occasionally damaged by deer

- Bradford Pear *Pyrus Calleryana*
- Dogwood *Florida & Kousa*
- Forsythia *Forsythia X.*
- Holly Hybrids *Ilex X.*
- Hydrangea *Paniculata & Macro*
- Japanese Holly *Ilex Crenata*
- Japanese Maple *Acer Palmatum*
- Red Maple *Acer Rubrum*
- Serviceberry *Amelanchier* Species
- Smokebush *Cotinus Coggryia*
- Spirea *Spiraea* Species
- Viburnum *Viburnum* Species



# Bulbs

Many of the bulbs that come back year after year are deer resistant.



# Highly Resistant Plants

The following plants are rarely eaten or damaged by deer unless there are no other options available. Plants marked with a ♦ are considered extremely resistant to deer.

- Abelia *Abelia X. Grandiflora*
- ♦ American Holly *Ilex Opaca*
- ♦ Barberry *Berberis* Species
- Butterfly Bush *Buddleia Davidii*
- Century Plant *Agave Americana*
- Chinese Holly *Ilex Cornuta*
- ♦ Chinese Juniper *Juniperus Chinensis*
- ♦ Crape Myrtle *Lagerstroemia* Hybrids
- Deodora Cedar *Cedrus Deodora*
- Eastern Red Cedar *Juniperus Virginiana*
- Flowering Cherry *Prunus Serrulata*
- Gardenia *Gardenia Jasminoides*
- ♦ Ginko *Ginko Biloba*
- Inkberry *Ilex Glabra*
- Japanese Cedar *Cryptomeria Japonica*
- Japanese Privet *Ligustrum Japonica*
- Junipers *Juniperus* Species
- Littleleaf Boxwood *Buxus Microphylla*
- ♦ Oleander *Nerium Oleander*
- ♦ Pines *Pinus* Species
- River Birch *Betula Nigra*
- ♦ Silverberry (Oleaster) *Eleagnus Pugens*
- ♦ Southern Magnolia *Magnolia Grandiflora*
- ♦ Sweetbay Magnolia *Magnolia Virginiana*
- ♦ Wax Myrtle *Myrica Cerifera*
- ♦ Yaupon *Ilex Vomitoria*
- ♦ Yucca *Yucca* Species

# Highly Resistant

- Allium
- Daffodils
- Fritillaria

# Moderately Resistant

- Winter Aconite
- Dahlia
- Grape Hyacinth

# Favorite Deer Treats

- Crocus
- Tulips

# Ornamental Grasses

Ornamental Grasses are avoided by deer and should be considered highly resistant to deer grazing.



# DEER OUT of the ZONING LANDSCAPE

One tactic used by gardeners to keep deer from eating landscape plants is to divide the landscape into zones. Plants prone to being eaten by deer are planted in the areas closest to the house. This zone is either protected from deer by fencing or is easier to manage through the application of repellents. In the areas furthest away from the home are planted the highly resistant plants. In the mid zone are planted the moderate plants.

## Green Goods Direct

phone: 609-296-3091 ♦ fax: 609-296-4193



For a more comprehensive list of deer resistant plants, contact your Green Goods Direct Representative today or check out our website [www.greengoodsdirect.com](http://www.greengoodsdirect.com)

The information given in this brochure is supplied with the understanding that a starving deer will eat anything to stay alive, no plant is guaranteed!