

DEER RESISTANT PLANTS (and the plants they love)

Farmington Gardens 21815 SW Farmington Rd, Beaverton 503.649.4568 www.farmingtongardens.com

We get asked about deer-resistant plants quite often. Deer generally prefer bland tasting, non-toxic and non-odiferous plant material. Basically, if it has an odd taste, smells a lot, or kills one of them, they probably won't eat it (probably). They also tend to prefer the more tender foliage (which is why they like new growth so much), staying away from the thicker or tougher (older) foliage. Also, fuzzy or hairy foliage also seems to be a general deterrent. These are general factors though, and it really comes down to the particular deer in your area, as tastes will vary from one population to another. Also, a hungry deer will eat just about anything it can get its hooves on, so in the absence of preferred material you can expect damage on plants generally considered safe. So what do you do? People that live in deer country usually come to expect some damage (although they still get angry when it happens), but there are a few ways you can lessen the impact of grazing deer.

Deer repellents are generally hit and miss, and you may need to try a few before you find the one that works in your location. They usually rely on strong odors and tastes that disagree with the deer (and the people that apply the repellent). A few also rely on the smell of predators to scare the deer away. Yes, you can buy things like mountain lion or coyote urine in a bottle for just that purpose, as weird and disgusting as that may seem. A common problem with all of these deterrents is that they wash off quickly when it rains, and need to be reapplied frequently. When it comes down to it though, there really isn't one of these that works all of the time on all of the different deer populations, although we have found one that seems to work in most cases. We carry and recommend a product called Liquid Fence that seems to work on most deer, and tends to hold up much better in the rain than other products we have carried. Other methods of common deterrent include motion activated sprinklers, flash tape, protective netting, and bullets (and some interesting combinations thereof). Some people will even go as far as to plant a grouping of "sacrificial plants" that they *know* the deer will love to eat to distract them from their other plants (Dogwoods work wonderfully if that last part caught your attention and you are wondering what to use).

We have compiled here some suggestions of plants deer generally don't like, as well as a list of those that they absolutely go nuts and do somersaults over. **The important thing to remember is that deer don't read lists such as this, so these may not hold true 100% of the time.**

These perennials are rarely damaged by deer.			
botanical name	common name	botanical name	common name
<i>Achillea</i>	Yarrow	<i>Iris siberica</i>	Siberian Iris
<i>Aconitum</i>	Monkshood	<i>Lamium</i>	Dead Nettle
<i>Alchemilla</i>	Lady's Mantle	<i>Lavandula</i>	Lavender
<i>Allium</i>	Flowering Onion	<i>Mentha</i>	Mint
<i>Amsonia</i>	Blue Star	<i>Monarda</i>	Bee Balm
<i>Artemisia</i>	Wormwood	<i>Nepeta</i>	Catnip
<i>Asclepias</i>	Butterfly Weed	<i>Origanum</i>	Oregano
<i>Astilbe</i>	Astilbe	<i>Perovskia</i>	Russian Sage
<i>Calamintha</i>	Calamint	<i>Phlox subulata</i>	Creeping Phlox
<i>Caryopteris</i>	Bluebeard	<i>Rheum</i>	Ornamental Rhubarb
<i>Crocoshmia</i>	Montbretia	<i>Salvia spp.</i>	Sage
<i>Delphinium</i>	Delphinium	<i>Saponaria</i>	Soapwort
<i>Dicentra</i>	Bleeding Heart	<i>Satureya</i>	Winter Savory
<i>Digitalis</i>	Foxglove	<i>Solidago</i>	Goldenrod
<i>Echinops</i>	Globe Thistle	<i>Stachys</i>	Lamb's Ear
<i>Galium</i>	Sweet Woodruff	<i>Tanacetum</i>	Tansy
<i>Geranium</i>	Scented Cranesbill	<i>Teucrium</i>	Germander
<i>Helleborus</i>	Hellebore	<i>Thymus</i>	Thyme
<i>Hypericum</i>	St John's Wort	<i>Verbascum</i>	Mullein

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<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry
<i>Berberis spp.</i>	Barberry
<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Butterfly Bush
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Common Boxwood
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian Olive
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	Wintergreen
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly
<i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>	Drooping Leucothoe
<i>Picea pungens</i>	Colorado Blue Spruce
<i>Pieris japonica</i>	Japanese Pieris
<i>Betula pendula</i>	European White Birch
<i>Calastrus scandens</i>	American Bittersweet
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>	English Hawthorn
<i>Daphne spp.</i>	Daphne
<i>Enkianthus campanulatus</i>	Redvein Enkianthus
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	European Beech
<i>Forsythia spp.</i>	Forsythia
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Honey Locust
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry
<i>Ilex cornuta</i>	Chinese Holly
<i>Juniperus chinensis</i>	Chinese Junipers
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain Laurel
<i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i>	Beautybush
<i>Lavandula spp.</i>	Lavender
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce
<i>Picea glauca</i>	White Spruce
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Austrian Pine
<i>Pinus rigida</i>	Pitch Pine
<i>Pinus mugo</i>	Mugo Pine
<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	Red Pine
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Bush Cinquefoil
<i>Salix matsudana tortuosa</i>	Corkscrew Willow
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Common Sassafras
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Common Lilac
<i>Wisteria floribunda</i>	Japanese Wisteria
<i>Yucca</i>	Yucca

These plants are frequently damaged by deer.	
botanical name	common name
<i>Abies balsamea</i>	Balsam Fir
<i>Abies fraseri</i>	Fraser Fir
<i>Acer spp.</i>	Most Maples
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbud
<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	Atlantic White Cedar
<i>Clematis spp.</i>	Clematis
<i>Cornus spp.</i>	Dogwood
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Burning Bush
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Wintercreeper
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English Ivy
<i>Malus spp.</i>	Apples
<i>Prunus spp.</i>	Cherries
<i>Prunus spp.</i>	Plums
<i>Rhododendron spp.</i>	Rhodies and azaleas
<i>Rhododendron catawbiense</i>	Catawba Rhododendron
<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	Pinxterbloom Azalea
<i>Rosa (x) hybrid</i>	Hybrid Tea Rose
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	European Mountain Ash
<i>Taxus spp.</i>	Yews
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	English Yew
<i>Taxus brevifolia</i>	Western Yew
<i>Taxus cuspidata</i>	Japanese Yew
<i>Taxus (x) media</i>	Hybrid Yew
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	American Arborvitae