

## DEER RESISTANT PLANTS (and the plants they love)

Farmington Gardens    21815 SW Farmington Rd, Beaverton    503.649.4568    [www.farmingtongardens.com](http://www.farmingtongardens.com)

<b>These plants are rarely damaged by deer</b>	
botanical name	common name
<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>Cornus sericea</i>	Red Osier Dogwood
<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

<b>These plants are frequently damaged by deer.</b>	
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 mas</i>	Cornelian Cherry
<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 <b>azaleas</b>
<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

Deer prefer bland tasting, non-toxic and non-odorous plant material. All of the perennials on our list are either spicy, toxic or aromatic. Whether or not a plant is eaten can also depend on factors external to the plants, such as weather which can cause starvation situations. Deer-resistant plants bring visual pleasure to your garden but be prepared for the frustration of an occasional nibble. No plant is deer-proof. Some factors that allow non-preferred plants such as these to get eaten include succulent new growth, easy availability and familiarity.

<b>These perennials are rarely damaged by deer.</b>			
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>Crococsmia</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

### **The Fine Print**

Deer-proofing your garden usually comes down to trial and error. Countless lists have been made, and countless exceptions have been found based on those. The damage that you experience will depend on a few different factors:

**The particular deer in your area.** Some populations, for one reason or another, like to eat different plants

**Population numbers.** The more deer, the more damage.

**Other food availability.** Deer need to eat, and if they can't find something that they prefer to eat, they'll keep moving on to other things as necessary to stay fed. If food is scarce, you can count on them eating things that they normally wouldn't.

With that said, deer are lazy eaters when they can get away with it and generally stay away from plants with fuzzy, thorny, tough, or thick foliage because they are just too much trouble or are not comfortable to eat. They also like bland, odorless things to eat. You will generally see them nibbling on succulent, leafy new plant growth first, and then moving on to more difficult prey as the supply dwindles.

### **Some Deer-proofing ideas**

**Exclusion.** If they can't get to your plants, then they can't destroy them. Deer fencing or netting works well for whole yards or gardens, while the mesh plastic tubing or bud protectors can save young trees from decimation.

**Repelling.** Sometimes this works, sometimes it doesn't. Certain deer are affected, and some aren't. Once again, it goes back to trial and error, and you will need to find the product that works for your situation. The drawback is that many of the repellent products really stink.

**Sacrificial plants.** Deer like some plants better than other. If you have only one or two deer running around, try planting something that they *really* like at the perimeter of your garden (Dogwoods work well). This sometimes draws their attention away from the plants that you want to keep them off of.