

**PLANTS NOT FAVORED BY DEER**

There are few things more frustrating to a gardener than having deer dine on much-cherished plants. Even if you are prepared to tolerate deer damage because you think these animals are picturesque, take heed. Deer are creatures of habit. Once they perceive your garden as a safe and delectable haven, they will visit regularly.

An increase in white-tailed deer populations and a decrease of their natural habitat have set up a situation in home landscapes, near woodlands where palatable ornamental plants become alternative food sources for deer. When winter approaches and food sources become less available, feeding on leaves, stems, and buds of woody plants becomes more apparent. Male deer also cause damage by rutting or rubbing their antlers along the stems or trunks of trees and stripping off bark.

Deer should be discouraged immediately when they first appear. Young trees and shrubs can suffer permanent damage from deer browsing. Deer damage is usually identified by the torn or jagged appearance of branches or twigs compared to the clean-cut feeding damage caused by rabbits and squirrels.

How, exactly, do you discourage deer? There are four basic options:

- **Fencing.** You can physically restrict deer by enclosing your entire yard or garden in fencing at least six feet tall. If you only have a few trees or shrubs to protect, you can put barrier fencing around these individual plants. Cost and aesthetics are the major drawbacks to this option.
- **Repellents.** Homemade and commercial repellents are common control methods to discourage deer, but their effectiveness and success are based on several factors. Most have a bitter taste or foul odor, which discourage deer from feeding. Snow and rainfall can dissipate some materials so reapplication is frequently needed. Some repellents simply do not weather well even without rain. If food sources are scarce, deer may simply ignore the repellents, despite the taste or odor.
- **Predators.** A large, noisy dog is a good deer deterrent. If you don't have a dog, you can hang shiny tape or strips from branches, or place inflated balls, whirlygigs, or other moving objects in the yard to startle deer with sudden movement. You'll have to rotate these frequently, however, or deer will soon realize that they are not in danger from these objects.
- **Deer-resistant plants.** If they are hungry enough and food is scarce enough, deer will eat almost anything. However, there are a number of plants that deer don't find particularly palatable. Using these plants in your landscape is often the most cost-effective, least time-consuming, and most aesthetically pleasing solution.

In this pamphlet, we offer a list of trees and shrubs not favored by deer. However, deer-browsing resistance of any plant species may change due to fluctuations in deer populations, alternative food availability, and environmental factors.

**Additional reading:**

*Gardening in Deer Country*, Bernard, Karen J., Croton-on-Hudson, New York, N.Y., 1991.

*Deer Proofing Your Yard & Garden*, Hart, Rhonda Massingham, Pownal, VT, 1997.

**TREES**

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<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus</i> spp.
Beech	<i>Fagus</i> spp.
Birch	<i>Betula</i> spp.
Catalpa	<i>Catalpa</i> spp.
Chestnut	<i>Castanea</i> spp.
Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
Dawn Redwood	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>
Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
Ironwood	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
Larch	<i>Larix</i> spp.
Locust, Black	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
Locust, Honey	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>
Smoke Tree	<i>Cotinus</i> spp.
Sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>
Sweet Gum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
Spruce	<i>Picea</i> spp.
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>
Western Arborvitae	<i>Thuja plicata</i>
Tree Lilac	<i>Syringa reticulata</i>
Tulip Tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>

**SHRUBS**

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<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Barberry	<i>Berberis</i> spp.
Boxwood	<i>Buxus</i> spp.
Leatherwood	<i>Dirca palustris</i>
Coralberry	<i>Symphoricarpos</i>
Forsythia	<i>Forsythia</i> spp.
Kerria	<i>Kerria japonica</i>
Lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>
Oregon-grape	<i>Mahonia</i> spp.
Smoke Bush	<i>Cotinus</i> spp.
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos</i> spp.
Spicebush	<i>Lindera</i> spp.
Spiraea	<i>Spiraea</i> spp.
Sweet Shrub	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>
Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis</i> spp.

## GROUND COVERS (both woody and herbaceous plants)

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<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Ajuga	<i>Ajuga</i> spp.
Barren Strawberry	<i>Waldsteinia fragarioides</i>
Bergenia	<i>Bergenia</i> spp.
Bunchberry	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>
Catmint	<i>Nepeta x faassenii</i>
Epimedium	<i>Epimedium</i> spp.
Ferns	Numerous species
Hens and Chicks	<i>Sempervivum</i> spp.
Juniper	<i>Juniperus</i> spp.
Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>
Lamium	<i>Lamium</i> spp.
Lily-of-the Valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>
Lily Turf	<i>Liriope spicata</i>
Lungwort	<i>Pulmonaria</i> spp.
Mosses	-----
Pachysandra	<i>Pachysandra</i> spp.
Potentilla	<i>Potentilla</i> spp.
Sedum	<i>Sedum</i> spp.
Snow-in-Summer	<i>Cerastium</i> spp.
Sweet Woodruff	<i>Galium odoratum</i>
Vinca	<i>Vinca minor</i>
Violet	<i>Viola</i> spp.
Wild Ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>
Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria</i> spp.

## PERENNIAL VINES

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<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Akebia	<i>Akebia quintata</i>
Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus scandens</i>
Clematis	<i>Clematis</i> spp.
Grape	<i>Vitis coignetiae</i>
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera</i> spp.
Ivy, Boston	<i>Parthenocissus tricuspidata</i>
Silver Lace Vine	<i>Polygonum aubertii</i>
Trumpet Creeper	<i>Campsis radicans</i>
Virginia Creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>
Wisteria	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>

## HARDY BULBS

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<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Autumn Crocus	<i>Chionodoxa lucilia</i>
Crown Imperial	<i>Fritillaria imperialis</i>
Daffodil	<i>Narcissus</i> spp.
Grape Hyacinth	<i>Muscari</i> spp.
Glory-of-the-Snow	<i>Colchicum autumnalis</i>
Imperial Fritillary	<i>Fritillaria imperialis</i>
Ornamental Onion	<i>Allium</i> spp.
Siberian Scilla	<i>Scilla</i> spp.
Snowdrop	<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>
Winter Aconite	<i>Eranthis hyemalis</i>

## ANNUALS/BIENNIALS

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<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Ageratum	<i>Ageratum</i>
Alyssum	<i>Lobularia</i>
Candytuft	<i>Iberis</i>
Forget-Me-Not	<i>Myosotis</i>
Four o'clock	<i>Mirabilis</i>
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis</i>
Heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium</i>
Larkspur	<i>Delphinium</i>
Lobelia	<i>Lobelia</i>
Marigold	<i>Tagetes</i>
Mimulus	<i>Mimulus</i>
Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea</i>
Moonflower	<i>Ipomoea</i>
Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum</i>
Petunia	<i>Petunia</i>
Poppy	<i>Papaver</i>
Salvia	<i>Salvia</i>
Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum</i>
Stocks	<i>Matthiola</i>
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus</i>
Sweet William	<i>Dianthus</i>
Tithonia	<i>Tithonia</i>

## HARDY PERENNIALS

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<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Monkshood	<i>Aconitum</i> spp.
Anemone	<i>Anemone</i> spp.
Artemisia	<i>Artemisia</i> spp.
Astilbe	<i>Astilbe</i> spp.
Bee Balm	<i>Monarda</i> spp.
Bergenia	<i>Bergenia</i> spp.
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia</i> spp.
Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis</i> spp.
Cranesbill	<i>Geranium</i> spp.
Fleabane Daisy	<i>Erigeron x hybridus</i>
Foam Flower	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>
Gentian	<i>Gentiana</i> spp.
Geum	<i>Geum</i> spp.
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago</i> spp.
Hellebore	<i>Helleborus nigra</i>
Hens & Chicks	<i>Sempervivum</i> spp.
Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus</i> spp.
Iris	<i>Iris</i> spp.
Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium caeruleum</i>
Rose campion	<i>Lychnis coronaria</i>
Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha pulustris</i>
Meadow Rue	<i>Thalictrum</i> spp.
Meadowsweet	<i>Flipendula</i> spp.
Peony	<i>Paeonia</i> spp.
Phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>
Pinks	<i>Dianthus</i> spp.
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>
Rock Cress	<i>Arabis caucasica</i>
Russian Sage	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>
Salvia	<i>Salvia</i> spp.
Sedum	<i>Sedum</i> spp.
Shasta Daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum</i>
Snakeroot	<i>Eupatorium rugosum</i>
Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>
Snow-in-Summer	<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>
Speedwell	<i>Veronica</i> spp.
Toadflax	<i>Linaria</i> spp.
Valerian	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>
Violet	<i>Viola</i> spp.
Yarrow	<i>Achillea</i> spp.

## HERBS

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<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Angelica	<i>Angelica archangelica</i>
Artemisia	<i>Artemisia absinthum</i>
Basil	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>
Borage	<i>Borago officinalis</i>
Catmint	<i>Nepeta x faassenii</i>
Chamomile	<i>Matricaria</i> spp.
Chives	<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>
Comfrey	<i>Symphytum x rubrum</i>
Dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>
Feverfew	<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>
Germander	<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>
Hyssop	<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>
Lamb's Ears	<i>Stachys byzantina</i>
Lavender	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>
Lemon Balm	<i>Melissa officinalis</i>
Mint	<i>Mentha</i> spp.
Mullein	<i>Verbascum</i> spp.
Oregano	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>
Parsley	<i>Petroselinum</i> spp.
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>
Rue	<i>Ruta graveolens</i>
Sage	<i>Salvia officinalis</i>
Savory	<i>Satureja montana</i>
Tansy	<i>Tanacetum coccineum</i>
Thyme	<i>Thymus</i> spp.