



# Deer Resistant Plants

It is important to remember that very few plants are totally resistant to the predations of deer, and no list of plants will be iron-clad against them. Plant palatability and availability of natural food resources will, in part, affect how much damage your garden receives. If food becomes scarce, deer will be less choosy about what they eat. In addition to plants that deer seem to avoid, we have included a list of plants that deer love to eat. Here are a few additional guidelines about the types of plants deer avoid: Deer tend to not eat plants with fuzzy foliage, or strong fragrances. Some research indicates that not only do deer not eat ornamental grasses but also don't like to be around them. Consider a dense planting around problem areas. Deer repellent sprays can help. At Homewood, we rotate between Deer Off™, Liquid Fence™, Imustgarden Deer Repellent™, and No Deer Zone™ sprays which are weather resistant and relatively long lasting. Rotating products helps keep deer from acclimating to a repellent. We also use ultrasonic repellent devices. For more information, see the additional sections of this handout that provide tips and techniques for keeping deer away from your garden.



## Annuals and Biennials

**Ageratum** (*Ageratum houstonianum*) - part sun to shade  
**Angelonia** (*Angelonia* hybrids) - sun  
**Bacopa** - sun  
**Blue Daze** (*Evolvulus glomeratus* 'Blue Daze') - sun  
**Blue Lobelia** (*Lobelia erinus*) - sun to light shade  
**Blue Salvia** (*Salvia farinacea*) - sun  
**Cleome** (*Cleome hasslerana*) - sun  
**Euryops Daisy** - sun  
**Flowering Tobacco** (*Nicotiana* spp.) - sun  
**Forget-Me-Not** (*Myosotis* spp.) - part sun to light shade  
**Foxglove** (*Digitalis* spp.) - part sun to light shade  
**Lantana** (*Lantana* spp. & cvs.) - sun  
**Marguerite Daisy** (*Argyranthemum* spp.) - sun  
**Marigold** (*Tagetes* spp.) - sun  
**Melampodium** (*Melampodium padulosum*) - sun to part sun  
**Plectranthus** - part sun to light shade  
**Purple Fountain Grass** (*Pennisetum setaceum rubrum*) - sun  
**Scaevola** spp. - sun to part sun  
**Snapdragon** (*Antirrhinum majus*) - sun to part sun  
**Vinca** (*Catharanthus rosea*) - sun to part sun  
**Zinnia** (*Zinnia* spp.) - sun

**Catnip/Catmint** (*Nepeta* spp.) - sun  
**Celandine Poppy** (*Stylophorum diphyllum*) - part sun, light shade  
**Chrysanthemum** spp. - sun  
**Columbine** (*Aquilegia* spp.) - part sun to light shade  
**Coreopsis** (*Coreopsis* spp.) - sun  
**Cranesbill** (*Geranium* spp.) - sun to part sun  
**Dame's Rocket** (*Hesperis matronalis*) - sun  
**Dianthus** spp. (except for Sweet William) - sun  
**Dusty Miller** (*Senecio cineraria*) - sun  
**Euphorbia** spp. - part sun to light shade  
**False Plumbago** (*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*) - sun to part sun  
**Fennel** - sun to part sun  
**Ferns** - shade  
**Foxglove** (*Digitalis purpurea*) - light shade  
**Gaura** (*Gaura lindheimeri*) - sun to part sun  
**Germander** (*Teucrium* spp.) - sun  
**Goldenrod** (*Solidago* spp.) - sun  
**Hardy Sunflower** (*Helianthus* spp.) - sun  
**Herbs** (except basil) - sun to part sun  
**Ice Plant** (*Delosperma* spp.) - sun  
**Iris** spp. (especially *I. sibirica* and *I. germanica*) - sun  
**Lamb's Ears** (*Stachys byzantina*) - sun  
**Lamium** spp. - part sun to light shade  
**Lantana** 'Ms. Huff', L. 'Ham 'n Eggs', L. 'Chapel Hill Yellow' - sun  
**Lavender** (*Lavandula* spp.) - sun  
**Lavender Cotton** (*Santolina* spp.) - sun  
**Lenten Rose** (*Helleborus* spp.) - part sun to shade  
**Licorice Plant** (*Helichrysum petiolare*) - sun  
**Mullein** (*Verbascum* spp.) - sun  
**Ornamental Grasses** - sun  
**Ornamental Onion** (*Allium* spp.) - sun  
**Pincushion Flower** (*Scabiosa* spp.) - sun  
**Poppy** (*Papaver* spp.) - sun to part sun

## Perennials

**Anise Hyssop** (*Agastache* spp.) - sun  
**Aster** spp. - sun  
**Astilbe** spp. - morning sun to light shade  
**Blanket Flower** (*Gaillardia* spp.) - sun  
**Bleeding Heart** (*Dicentra spectabilis*, *D. eximia*) - part sun to shade  
**Bluebeard** (*Caryopteris clandonensis*) - sun  
**Blue Star Flower** (*Amsonia* spp.) - sun  
**Butterfly Weed** (*Asclepias* spp.) - sun to part sun  
**Candytuft** (*Iberis* spp.) - sun

spp.= species, cvs.= cultivars

**Purple Heart** (*Setcreasea purpurea*) - sun to part sun  
**Queen-of-the-Prairie** (*Filipendula* spp.) - light shade  
**Red Hot Poker** (*Kniphofia uvaria*) - sun  
**Rose Campion** (*Lychnis coronaria*) - sun to part sun  
**Russian Sage** (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) - sun  
**Sedum** spp. (except *S. telephium* & *S. spectabile*) - sun to part sun  
**Sedge grass** (*Carex* spp.) - shade  
**Sage** (*Salvia* spp. especially *Salvia officinalis*) - sun  
**Shasta Daisy** (*Leucanthemum*) - sun  
**Snow-in-Summer** (*Cerastium tomentosum*) - sun  
**Society Garlic** (*Tulbaghia violacea*) - sun  
**Spiderwort** (*Tradescantia* spp.) - sun to part sun  
**Veronica** spp. - sun to part sun  
**Wormwood** (*Artemisia* spp.) - sun  
**Yarrow** (*Achillea* spp.) - sun  
**Yucca** spp. - sun

## Shrubs

**Abelia** (*Abelia* spp. and cvs.) - sun to part sun  
**Anise-shrub** (*Illicium* spp.) - part sun to shade  
**Bamboo** (*Bambusa*, *Fargesia*, etc.) - part sun  
**Barberry** (*Berberis* spp.) - sun  
**Beautybush** (*Kolkwitzia amabilis*) - sun to part sun  
**Boxleaf Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera nitida*) - sun to part shade  
**Boxwood** (*Buxus* spp.) - sun to part sun  
**Butterfly Bush** (*Buddleia davidii*) - sun  
**Carolina Cherrylaurel** (*Prunus caroliniana*) - sun to part sun  
**Chinese Fringe Bush** (*Loropetalum chinense*) - sun to light shade  
**Chinese Holly** (*Ilex cornuta*) - sun to part sun  
**Common Lilac** (*Syringa vulgaris*) - sun  
**Daphne** spp. - part sun to light shade  
**Drooping Leucothoe** (*Leucothoe fontanesiana*) - part sun, shade  
**Deutzia** spp. - sun to part sun  
**Elaeagnus** spp. - sun to part sun  
**Falsecypress** (*Chamaecyparis pisifera*, *C. obtusa*) - sun  
**Gardenia** (*G. jasminoides*) - sun to part sun  
**Golden Paperbush** (*Edgeworthia* spp.) - part sun to light shade  
**Inkberry** (*Ilex glabra*) - sun to part sun  
**Juniper** (*Juniperus* spp.) - sun  
**Ligustrum/Privet** (*Ligustrum* spp.) - sun to light shade  
**Mahonia** spp. - part sun to shade  
**Mountain Laurel** (*Kalmia latifolia*) - part sun to shade  
**Nandina** spp. - sun or shade  
**Oleander** (*Nerium oleander*) - sun  
**Pieris** (*Pieris japonica*) - part sun to light shade  
**Plum Yew** (*Cephalotaxus* spp.) - part sun to shade  
**Poet's Laurel** (*Danae racemosa*) - part sun to shade  
**Rosemary** (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) - sun  
**St. John's Wort** (*Hypericum* spp.)  
**Spirea** (*Spiraea* spp.) - sun to part sun  
**Summersweet** (*Clethra alnifolia*) - part sun to light shade  
**Sweet Box** (*Sarcococca hookeriana*) - part sun to light shade  
**Tea Olive/False Holly** (*Osmanthus* spp.) sun to part sun  
**Viburnum** spp. (*V. tinus* may be browsed in winter) - sun, partsun  
**Wax Myrtle** (*Myrica cerifera*) - sun to part sun  
**Yaupon Holly** (*Ilex vomitoria*) - sun to part sun

## Trees

**American Holly** (*Ilex opaca*) - sun to part sun  
**Arizona Cypress** (*Cupressus arizonica*) - sun  
**Bald Cypress** (*Taxodium distichum*) - sun  
**Birch** (*Betula* spp.) - sun to part sun

**Carolina Cherrylaurel** (*Prunus caroliniana*) - sun to part shade  
**Chastetree** (*Vitex agnus-castus*) - sun  
**Colorado Spruce** (*Picea pungens*) - sun to part sun  
**Crepemyrtle** (*Lagerstroemia* hybrids)- sun  
**Deodar Cedar** (*Cedrus deodara*) - sun  
**Dogwood** (*Cornus* spp.- tree types only) part sun/light shade  
**Ginkgo** (*Ginkgo biloba*) - sun  
**Goldenraintree** (*Koelreuteria* spp.) - sun  
**Japanese Cedar** (*Cryptomeria japonica*) - sun  
**Japanese Snowbell** (*Styrax japonica*) - sun to part sun  
**Leyland Cypress** (*xCupressocyparis leylandii*) - sun  
**Magnolia** spp. (deciduous & evergreen types) - sun to part sun  
**Oak trees** (*Quercus* spp.) - sun  
**Palm** (*Trachycarpus*, *Butia*, *Sabal*, *Rhapidophyllum*, *Chaeromops* spp.) - SUN  
**Pine** (*Pinus* spp.) - sun  
**Red Buckeye** (*Aesculus pavia*) - part sun  
**Smoke Tree** (*Cotinus* spp.) - sun  
**Spruce** (*Picea* spp.) - sun to part sun

## Vines

**Carolina Jessamine** (*Gelsemium* spp.) - sun to light shade  
**China Blue Sausage Vine** (*Hoelboellia coriacea*) - shade  
**Crossvine** (*Bignonia capreolata*) - sun to part sun  
**Japanese Wisteria** (*Wisteria floribunda*) - sun to part sun  
**Passionflower vine** (*Passiflora* spp.) - sun  
**Star Jasmine** (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) - light shade, part sun

## Groundcovers

**Asiatic Jasmine** (*Trachelospermum asiaticum*) - part sun, light shade  
**Candytuft** (*Iberis* spp.) - sun  
**Carpet Bugleweed** (*Ajuga reptans*) - part sun to light shade  
**Creeping Jenny** (*Lysimachia nummularia*) - sun to light shade  
**Creeping Juniper** (*Juniperus chinensis*) - full sun  
**Creeping Rosemary** (*Rosmarinus* off. var. *prostratus*) - sun  
**Epimedium** spp. - part sun to light shade  
**False Plumbago** (*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*) - sun, part sun  
**Ice Plant** (*Delosperma* spp.) - sun  
**Pachysandra** spp. - part sun to light shade  
**Lamb's Ears** (*Stachys byzantina*) - sun  
**Lamium** spp. - part sun to light shade  
**Mondo Grass** (*Ophiopogon japonicus*)  
**St. John's Wort** (*Hypericum calycinum*)  
**Strawberry Saxifrage** (*Saxifraga stolonifera*) - part sun to shade  
**Thyme** (*Thymus* spp.) - sun to part sun  
**Vinca Vine/Periwinkle** (*Vinca minor*) - part sun to light shade

## Bulbs

**Amarcrinum** spp.  
**Amaryllis** spp.  
**Autumn Crocus** (*Colchicum*)  
**Bluebell** (*Scilla*)  
**Daffodil** (*Narcissus*)  
**Frittilaria** spp.  
**Gladiolus** spp.  
**Glory-of-the-Snow** (*Chionodoxa*)  
**Grape Hyacinth** (*Muscari*)  
**Iris** (*I. sibirica* & *I. germanica*)  
**Hyacinth** (*Hyacinthus*)  
**Narcissus** spp.  
**Ornamental Onion** (*Allium* spp.)  
**Snowdrop** (*Galanthus*)  
**Snowflake** (*Leucojum*)  
**Star Lily/Spring Starflower** (*Ipheion uniflorum*)  
**Star of Bethlehem** (*Ornithogalum*)  
**Winter Aconite** (*Eranthus*)

## ***Plants That Deer Often Eat:***

Azalea	Heuchera/Coral Bells
Apple (and other fruit trees)	Hydrangea
Aucuba	Indian Hawthorn
Beans	Japanese Anemone
Blackberry	Korean Lilac
Broccoli	Lettuce
Cauliflower	Liriope
Clematis	Lobelia
Corneliancherry Dogwood	Phlox
Crabapple	Rhododendron
Daylilies	Roses
Eastern Redbud	Strawberry
English Ivy	Sweet Corn
Euonymus	Trillium
Fatsia	Tulip
Geum	Violet
Hollyhocks	Yew ( <i>Taxus</i> spp., but Japanese Plum Yew,
Hosta	<i>Cephalotaxus</i> , is resistant & very similar.)

## ***Good Companion Plants That Repel By Smell***

Deer generally don't like the scents of the following plants. By interplanting them with plants that deer *do* like, you can help to repel deer from eating plants that you both consider desirable.

**Anise Hyssop** (*Agastache foeniculum*) - Upright perennial with minty-licorice scent and blue flowers in late summer. Use with daylilies and roses. May deter Japanese beetles as well. Plant in sun to part shade.

**Anise shrub** (*Illicium* spp.) - Rounded, evergreen shrub for shade with licorice scented leaves. May help protect azaleas and rhododendrons. Plant in part shade to shade.

**Bear's Claw Hellebore** (*Helleborus foetidus*) - Evergreen, palm-like leaves have skunky scent all year but especially when in flower. Plant shade or part shade.

**Catmint** (*Nepeta faassenii*, *C. mussinii*) - Sagey-mint scent is said to repel mosquitoes as well as deer. Blue flowers in midsummer.

**Corsican Hellebore** (*Helleborus argutifolius*) - Shade-loving evergreen perennial has bold holly-like leaves with a skunky odor. Bright chartreuse flowers in spring. Good azalea defenders!

**Curry Plant** (*Helichrysum italicum*) - Small, cool-season annual used for winter interest. Silver leaves have intense curry fragrance. Use with pansies and winter crops for "scentsational" display.

**English Boxwood** (*Buxus sempervirens*) - This famous hedge plant that has a sort of burnt mushroom smell (though some say cat pee is more like it). Plant in sun or shade.

**Fritillaria** (most varieties) - Spring blooming bulbs colonize into nice masses. Grassy leaves have oniony smell. Great for interplanting with tulips. Plant in sun to part shade.

**Lavender Cotton** (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*) - Textural silver sub-shrub has strong musky, hyssop odor and yellow button flowers in summer. Looks nice with perennials, annuals, or shrubs. Plant in sun.

**Oregano** (*Origanum* spp.) - Spicy leaves are semi-evergreen and tidy. Plant in sun.

**Rosemary** (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) - Creeping or shrubby culinary evergreen herb with light blue flowers in spring. Creeping form offers excellent pansy protection.

**Sage** (*Salvia* - all species) - All have semi-evergreen, pungent foliage and showy flowers. Mix with roses, phlox, anemones, tulips, daylilies.

**Spider Flower** (*Cleome hasslerana*) - Tall annual with lacy flowers and musky, thorny foliage and stems. Great for interplanting with roses.

**Star Lily** (*Ipheon uniflora*) - Small, spring-blooming bulbs colonize into nice masses. have onion scent. Blue, star-shaped flower. Plant in sun or shade.

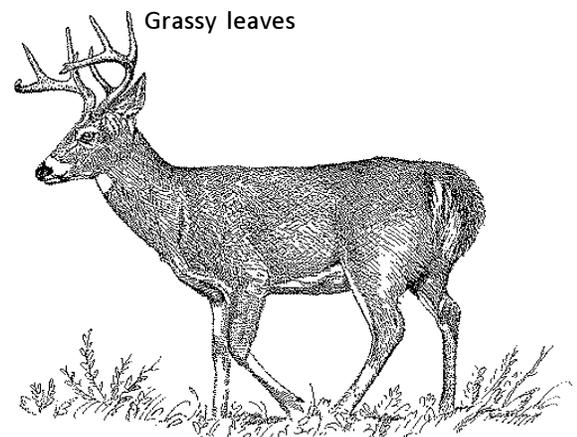
**Wax Myrtle** (*Myrica* spp.) - Native evergreen shrub with a bay leaf scent. Use for barriers, hedges, or shaped accent. Good foil for roses! Plant sun or part shade.

**Wormwood** (*Artemisia* spp.) - Many varieties of lacy, silver-leaved perennials that emit a bitter-herb scent. Good with roses, Indian hawthorn, veggie crops, etc. Plant in sun to part shade.

**Lantana 'Ms. Huff'** - Shrubby perennial with lemon-mint foliage. Orange and yellow flowers. Use with daylilies, tall phlox, and roses.

**Thyme** (*Thymus* spp.) - Most types make excellent low barriers to mask other plants.

**Yarrow** (*Achillea* spp.) - Low, ferny-leaved perennial has musky-onion scent and flowers ranging from yellow to reddish-purple. Good with vegetable crops as flowers attract beneficial insects.



# **Defeating Deer - Tips & Techniques**

## **THE LOGIC:**

1. If you have a deer problem, it is very likely that you are being visited by the same deer every night.
2. Your deer have already learned what plants they like best and will continue to eat them until they are gone at which time they will start trying everything else in the garden.
3. Fawns learn which plants are "preferred" from their mothers. We can teach the fawns to prefer the garden down the street by using deterrents with the proper timing. This may break the "generational curse".

## **CHEMICAL DETERRENTS:**

### **Sprays**

**1. Deer Off™, Liquid Fence™, No Deer Zone™, and imustgarden Deer Repellent™** - Begin spraying the whole garden in late March to discourage Mom from bringing Jr. around. In late April, spray only susceptible plants in order to teach Jr. that these plants taste terrible. He'll remember and avoid them next time. Rotate products every so often to prevent deer from acclimating to them.

**2. Home remedy** - You can also try blending 2 eggs, 2 Tbsp. ground hot pepper, 1 Tbsp. chopped or dried rosemary, and 1/2 clove garlic in 1 quart of water. Blend for 1 minute on high speed and let stand overnight at room temperature. Pour through a fine mesh strainer or cheese cloth into an old milk jug. Use at a rate of 1/4 cup concentrated mix to 1 quart water. Add a few drops of scented dish soap or a tsp. of insecticidal soap to make the product stick to and stay on leaves. Remaining concentrate can be refrigerated for up to one week.

### **Solid Spreadables**

**Blood Meal, Mothballs, Milorganite™, Bar Soap** - In late spring, sprinkle, spread, or place around plants that need extra protection. Milorganite™ and blood meal are nitrogen based fertilizers and should not be used later than August in planted areas. Instead, spread them around garden perimeters. Begin a fall spray or barrier program in late September to remind deer not to dine at your restaurant (because the food *really* stinks!)

## **PHYSICAL DETERRENTS:**

**Electric Fencing** - The general recommendation for electric deer fencing is four lines at 2, 4, 6, and 8 foot levels. It is important to attach 1 foot long white plastic or cloth strips to the wire that is at the 4 foot level. Space the strips 8 to 12 feet apart so that the deer can perceive the barrier and not injure or cut themselves on the wire. Consider cost, appearance, terrain, and zoning laws before starting out.

**Poly Mesh/Wire Fencing** - This involves using polypropylene mesh or woven wire that can be attached to trees, fence posts, or both. The fencing should be installed so it is 8 feet high. It will last longer if reinforced with high-tensile wire strung along the bottom, middle, and top. The bottom of the fence should be staked to the ground to keep fawns from getting under.

**Double Fencing** - If a tall fence is undesirable, you can install double-fencing which can be around 4 feet tall with another 4 foot tall fence about 3-4 feet away from the first. This is 3D fencing and the thinking is that deer dislike trying to gauge the distance needed to jump it. The fences can be of different materials from each other or the same. You can do fence posts with high tension wire, baling twine, rope, etc. attached, or picket fences, or polypropylene fences. The keys features are that the fences are about the same height as each other and about 3-4 feet apart. You can even plant in between the fences. (Deer-resistant plants, of course!)

**Nylon or Filament Netting** - Place netting over susceptible shrubs. Best used on shrubs from fall to spring but should be removed by late spring as new growth begins. Cons: wildlife can get caught in it sometimes.

**Sonic Devices** - These devices produce an ultrasonic noise disliked by deer (and people under the age of 30, apparently) and help repel them away from areas near the device. Some have motion sensors so that they are activated by movement as well as strobe lights as further deterrents.

**Motion Sensors** - There are many creative possibilities from hooking up holiday chaser lights, to loud radios, to automatic sprinklers. There is a specially designed device called the Scarecrow that hooks up to a hose. When the motion sensor is activated, it shoots water in the direction of the motion. Remember that radios and other electronic devices should be properly housed and grounded for safety.

**Wind Chimes** - Unpredictable movement and odd sounds frighten deer. Mid-tone or mid-range chimes seem to be more effective than those in the high-range.