

Deer Resistant Plantings



Escalating deer populations in urban and suburban areas means ongoing trouble for landscapes. Winter months are usually times of privation for deer and that's the time they're most likely to come visiting your property.

Treatments applied in autumn will help deter deer from feeding on landscape plants. Treatments should be applied in the fall before feeding patterns develop and damage occurs. A second application may be needed in late winter.

Another approach to discouraging deer browsing is to plant trees, shrubs and garden plants that deer don't like to eat. This isn't foolproof, but it may deter them from your property to one where the foraging is better.

Here's a list of "deer resistant" plantings for your landscape:

ANNUALS

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Ageratum	Ageratum
Flowering Tobacco	Nicotiana glauca
Larkspur	Consolida ambigua
Snapdragon	Antirrhinum majus
Sweet Alyssum	Lobularia maritima

BULBS

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Daffodil	Narcissus
Daffodil Garlic	Allium neapolitanum
Lily Leek	Allium astrowskianum
Star of Persia	Allium christophii

FERNS

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Cinnamon Fern	Osmunda cinnamomea
Ostrich Fern	Matteuccia struthiopteris
Royal Fern	Osmunda regalis
Sensitive Fern	Onoclea sensibilis
Wood Fern	Dryopteris

GROUND COVERS

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Allegheny Spurge	Pachysandra procumbens
Barrenwort	Epimedium
Bearberry	Arctostaphylos uva-ursi
Bugleweed	Ajuga reptans
Lily of the Valley	Convallaria majalis
Plumbago	Ceratostigma plumbaginoides
Spotted Dead Nettle	Lamium maculatum
Sweet Woodruff	Galium odoratum

Deer Resistant Plantings



ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

COMMON NAME

Blue Fescue
Fountain Grass
Japanese Sedge

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Festuca glauca
Pennisetum alopecuroides
Carex

PERRENIALS

COMMON NAME

Basket of Gold
Bleeding Heart
Buttercup
Columbine
Common Tansy
Coneflower
Dame's Rocket
Forget-Me-Not
Foxglove
Iris
Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Japanese Anemone
Lamb's Ear
Lavender
Lavender Cotton
Lenten Rose
Lungwort
Mint
Monkshood
Oregano
Oriental Poppy
Peony
Purple Coneflower
Rock Cress
Rose Champion
Russian Sage
Sage
Silver Mound
Spurge
Statice
Tarragon
Threadleaf Coreopsis
Thyme
Yarrow
Yucca

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Aurinia saxatilis
Dicentra spectabilis
Ranunculus
Aquilegia
Tanacetum vulgare
Rudbeckia
Hesperis matronalis
Myosotis
Digitalis
Iris
Arisaema triphylum
Anemone x hybrida
Stachys byzantina
Lavandula
Santolina chamaecyparissus
Helleborus orientalis
Pulmonaria
Mentha
Aconitum
Origanum vulgare
Papaver orientale
Paeonia
Echinacea purpurea
Arabis
Lychnis coronaria
Perovskia atriplicifolia
Salvia
Artemisia schmidtiana
Euphorbia
Limonium latifolium
Artemisia dracunculus
Coreopsis verticillata
Thymus
Achillea
Yucca

Deer Resistant Plantings



SHRUBS

COMMON NAME

Barberry
Beautyberry
Bottlebrush Buckeye
Boxwood
Daphne
Forsythia
Germander
Heath
Heather
Japanese
Japanese Plum Yew
Jasmine
John T. Morris Holly
Juniper
Leucothoe
Lydia Morris Holly
Mountain Pieris
Oregon Grape Holly
Smokebush
Sweet Box

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Berberis
Callicarpa ameriana
Kolkwitzia amabilis
Buxus
Daphne
Forsythia
Teucrium
Erica
Calluna vulgaris
Pieris Pieris japonica
Cephalotaxus harringtonia
Jasminum
Ilex x 'John T. Morris'
Juniperus
Leucothoe
Ilex x 'Lydia Morris'
Pieris floribunda
Mahonia aquifolium
Cotinus coggygia
Sarcococa hookeriana

SMALL TREES

COMMON NAME

Russian Olive

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Elaeagnus angustifolia

TREES

COMMON NAME

Colorado Blue Spruce
Paper Birch
Pawpaw
Pitch Pine
Red Pine

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Picea pungens
Betula papyrifera
Asimina triloba
Pinus rigida
Pinus resinosa

Other alternatives for deer management include fencing and “aversion training” that involves the use of loud noises or fluttering banners to deter deer. Fencing, provided it is high enough, may be effective in certain situations. Loud noises and other such aversion methods work very well the first time, but once deer perceive no threat they ignore the source and continue to forage. It is well known that deer are hosts to ticks that carry disease. Although beautiful to look at, there are many reasons to discourage deer from foraging on your landscape. A consultation with an arborist will help you decide which deer deterrents work best for you.