

Deer Resistant Plants

- With the possible exception of spiny Barberries (*Berberis*) there are no absolutely deer-proof plants. If the herd is large enough, and food is scarce enough, deer have been known to eat almost anything. That said, there **are** plants that are much less palatable to deer. If you have a problem in your neighborhood, it's probably a good idea to draw heavily from this list of plants that are rarely browsed. This list is drawn primarily from research done at Rutgers University right here in NJ.
- As a first line of defense, line paths and garden borders with deer-repelling plants such as alliums and aromatic herbs like mints (*Mentha*), lavenders (*Lavandula*), sages (*Salvia*), and thyme (*Thymus*). If that first nibble smells or tastes nasty, the deer may just move on without venturing further into the garden.
- Woody plants like boxwood (*Buxus*), spireas (*Spiraea*), and blue spruce (*Picea pungens*); annuals such as ageratum, celosias, cleomes, marigolds (*Tagetes*), and zinnias; and herbaceous perennials like coreopsis, lupines (*Lupinus*), and poppies (*Papaver*), touted by nurseries as "deer resistant," are just that. Do deer stay away from these plants? That depends on how hungry they are. They do seem to avoid many ornamental grasses and silver-leafed or fuzzy plants like artemisias, dusty miller (*Senecio cineraria*), and lamb's ears (*Stachys byzantia*).
- Avoid planting tulips, a deer favorite, use daffodils (*Narcissus*) instead. They are noxious to deer.
- Fence deer out: An eight-foot-high wire or plastic fence is effective but unsightly and expensive. Less aesthetically challenging, an electric fence with just a single strand of wire works perhaps 90 percent of the time. In the vegetable garden, arch two-by-four-inch-mesh wire fencing over vulnerable produce. The arches can be moved for working on the beds or harvesting.
- Even better than a fence is a dog, provided the dog is at liberty and willing to give chase to the deer.
- If you use scent and taste repellents, alternate them frequently.
- Stuff the toe of a cut-off panty hose leg with a handful of human hair and suspend it near a vulnerable plant.
- Hang bars of scented soap in trees and shrubs prone to deer browse.
- Apply a spray made by mixing water with crushed garlic, old eggs, and hot pepper sauce around vulnerable plants.
- Scatter Milorganite, a fertilizer made from sewer effluent, around ornamental plants that deer favor (not recommended for vegetable or herb gardens).
- Check with other gardeners in your area about their success with commercial products and regimes of alternating deer repellents before you purchase one or more products such as Living Fence, Hinder, Deer Off, Deer Away, or Bobbex.

KEY:

A = Rarely Damaged

B = Seldom Severely Damaged

C = Occasionally Severely Damaged

	ANNUALS	
Common Name	Latin Name	Rating
Ageratum	<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	A
Angel's Trumpet	<i>Brugmansia sp. (Datura)</i>	A
Annual Vinca	<i>Catharanthus rosea</i>	A
Bachelor's Buttons	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	B
Basil	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	B
Candytuft	<i>Iberis umbellata</i>	B
Cock's Comb	<i>Celosia sp.</i>	B
Coleus	<i>Coleus sp.</i>	C
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos sp.</i>	C
Dahlia	<i>Dahlia sp.</i>	C
Dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	B
Dusty Miller	<i>Centaurea cineraria</i>	A
Flowering Tobacco	<i>Nicotiana sp.</i>	A

Forget-Me-Not	<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	A
French Marigold	<i>Tagetes patula</i>	B
Gerbera Daisy	<i>Gerbera jamesonii</i>	C
Heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium arborescens</i>	A
Lantana	<i>Lantana sp.</i>	B
Larkspur	<i>Consolida ambigua</i>	A
Lobelia	<i>Lobelia sp.</i>	B
Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	B
Pansy	<i>Viola sp.</i>	C
Parsley	<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	B
Poppy	<i>Papaver sp.</i>	A
Pot Marigold	<i>Calendula sp.</i>	A
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	A
Salvia	<i>Salvia</i>	B
Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	A
Snow-on-the-Mountain	<i>Euphorbia marginata</i>	A
Spider Flower	<i>Cleome sp.</i>	A
Stocks	<i>Matthiola sp.</i>	B
Strawflower	<i>Helichrysum</i>	A
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus sp.</i>	C
Sweet Alyssum	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	A
Verbena	<i>Verbena x hybrida</i>	B
Wallflower	<i>Cheiranthus sp.</i>	B
Wax Begonia	<i>Begonia semperflorens</i>	C
Zinnia	<i>Zinnia sp.</i>	B

FERNS		
Common Name	Latin Name	Rating
Christmas Fern	<i>Polystichum arcostichoides</i>	A
Cinnamon Fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	A
Hayscented Fern	<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>	A
Holly Fern	<i>Cyrtomium falcatum</i>	A
Japanese Painted Fern	<i>Athyrium goeringianum (nipponicum)</i>	A
New York Fern	<i>Thelyptens noveboracensis</i>	A
Ostrich Fern	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	A
Royal Fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	A
Sensitive Fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	A
Wood Fern	<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	A

GROUNDCOVERS		
Common Name	Latin Name	Rating
Allegheny Spurge	<i>Pachysandra procumbens</i>	A
Barrenwort	<i>Epimediurn sp.</i>	A

Bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	A
Bishop's Weed	<i>Aegopodium podagaria</i>	A
Bugleweed	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	A
Creeping Wintergreen	<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	B
Lily of the Valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	A
Lilyturf	<i>Liriope sp.</i>	B
Pachysandra	<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	A
Plumbago	<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	B
Spotted Deadnettle	<i>Lamium sp.</i>	A
Sweet Woodruff	<i>Galium odoratum (Asperula odorata)</i>	A

	PERENNIALS	
Common Name	Latin Name	Rating
Anise Hyssop	<i>Agastache sp.</i>	A
Asparagus	<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	B
Aster	<i>Aster sp.</i>	B
Astilbe	<i>Astilbe sp.</i>	B
Baby's Breath	<i>Gypsophila sp.</i>	B
Balloon Flower	<i>Platycodon grandiflorus</i>	C
Basket of Gold	<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>	A
Beebalm	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	B
Bellflower	<i>Campanula glomerata</i>	C
Bigleaf Goldenray	<i>Ligularia dentata</i>	A
Blanket Flower	<i>Gaillardia sp.</i>	C
Blazing Star	<i>Liatris sp.</i>	B
Bleeding Heart	<i>Dicentra spectabilis</i>	A
Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus sp.</i>	A
Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	B
Candytuft	<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	B
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia sp.</i>	B
Carnation, Pinks	<i>Dianthus sp.</i>	B
Catmint	<i>Nepeta sp.</i>	A
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia sp.</i>	B
Common Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	A
Common Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	B
Coralbells	<i>Heuchera sp.</i>	B
Corydalis	<i>Corydalis sp.</i>	A
Crocoshmia	<i>Crocoshmia sp.</i>	B
Delphinium	<i>Delphinium sp.</i>	B
English Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	C
European Ginger	<i>Asarum europaeum</i>	A
False Indigo	<i>Baptisia australis</i>	A
Fleabane	<i>Erigeron sp.</i>	C
Foam Flower	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	B

Forget-Me-Not	<i>Myosotis sp.</i>	A
Fringed Bleeding Heart	<i>Dicentra eximia</i>	A
Garden Sage	<i>Salvia officinalis</i>	A
Germander	<i>Teucrium Chamaedrys</i>	A
Geum, Avens	<i>Geum sp.</i>	C
Goat's Beard	<i>Aruncus sp.</i>	C
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago sp.</i>	B
Gooseneck Loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia clethroides</i>	C
Hardy Begonia	<i>Begonia grandis</i>	C
Hardy Geranium	<i>Geranium clarkei</i>	C
Hardy Geranium	<i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i>	B
Hardy Geranium	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	C
Hardy Geranium	<i>Geranium x cantabrigiense</i>	C
Heartleaf Bergenia	<i>Bergenia sp.</i>	B
Hens and Chickens	<i>Sempervivum sp.</i>	B
Hyssop	<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>	A
Iris	<i>Iris sp.</i>	A
Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium caeruleum</i>	B
Japanese Anemone	<i>Anemone x hybrida</i>	B
Ladys' Mantle	<i>Alchemilla sp.</i>	B
Lamb's Ear	<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	A
Lance Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	B
Lavender	<i>Lavandula sp.</i>	A
Lenten or Christmas Rose	<i>Helleborus sp.</i>	A
Lungwort	<i>Pulmonaria sp.</i>	A
Lupine	<i>Lupinus sp.</i>	B
Meadow Rue	<i>Thalictrum sp.</i>	A
Meadow Sage	<i>Salvia nemorosa</i>	B
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula sp.</i>	C
Mint	<i>Mentha sp.</i>	A
Monkshood	<i>Aconitum sp.</i>	A
Mountain Bluet	<i>Centaurea montana</i>	C
Mullein	<i>Verbascum sp.</i>	B
Obedient Plant	<i>Physostegia sp.</i>	B
Oriental Poppy	<i>Papaver orientale</i>	B
Ornamental Onion	<i>Allium sp.</i>	A
Penstemon	<i>Penstemon sp.</i>	C
Peony	<i>Paeonia sp.</i>	A
Pincushion Flower	<i>Scabiosa caucasica</i>	B
Pink Turtlehead	<i>Chelone sp.</i>	C
Potentilla, Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla sp.</i>	A
Primrose	<i>Primula sp.</i>	B
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	B
Red-Hot Poker	<i>Kniphofia tritoma</i>	B
Rock-Cress	<i>Arabis caucasica</i>	A
Rocket Ligularia	<i>Ligularia 'The Rocket'</i>	A

Rodgers Flower	<i>Rodgersia sp.</i>	A
Rue	<i>Ruta sp.</i>	A
Russian Sage	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	A
Sea Thrift	<i>Armeria maritima</i>	B
Shasta Daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum superbum</i>	C
Showy Sedum	<i>Sedum spectabile</i>	C
Siberian Bugloss	<i>Bruneria macrophylla</i> (Brunnera)	A
Silver Mound	<i>Artemisia sp.</i>	A
Small Globe Thistle	<i>Echinops ritro</i>	A
Snakeroot, Bugbane	<i>Cimicifuga sp.</i>	B
Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	B
Snow-in-Summer	<i>Cerastium</i>	B
Soapwort	<i>Saponaria sp.</i>	B
Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum sp.</i>	C
Speedwell	<i>Veronica sp.</i>	B
Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia sp.</i>	B
St. John's Wort	<i>Hypericum calycinum</i>	B
Stokes' Aster	<i>Stokesia laevis</i>	B
Sundrops	<i>Oenothera sp.</i>	C
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	B
Tarragon	<i>Artemisia dracuncululus</i>	A
Threadleaf Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	A
Thyme	<i>Thymus sp.</i>	A
Toad Lily	<i>Tricyrtis hirta</i>	B
Trillium	<i>Trillium sp.</i>	B
Violets	<i>Viola sp.</i>	B
Virginia Bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	B
White Boltonia	<i>Boltonia asteroides</i>	B
White Snakeroot	<i>Eupatorium rugosum</i>	B
Wild Ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>	A
Yarrow	<i>Achillea filipendulina</i>	B
Yellow Foxglove	<i>Digitalis grandiflora</i>	B
Yellow Wax-Bells	<i>Kirengeshoma palmata</i>	B
Yucca	<i>Yucca filimentosa</i>	A

SHRUBS		
Common Name	Latin Name	Rating
Anthony Waterer Spirea	<i>Spiraea x bumalda</i>	B
Arrowwood Viburnum	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	A
Barberry	<i>Berberis sp.</i>	A
Bayberry	<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	A
Bearberry Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster dammeri</i>	B
Beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa sp.</i>	B

Beautybush	<i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i>	B
Blackhaw Viburnum	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	B
Bloodtwig Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	C
Blue Holly	<i>Ilex x meserveae</i>	C
Blue Mist Shrub	<i>Caryopteris clandonensis</i>	A
Blue Star Juniper	<i>Juniperus squamata</i> 'Blue Star'	B
Blueberry Elder, Sweet Elder	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	B
Bog Rosemary	<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	B
Raspberry	<i>Rubus sp.</i>	B
Bridalwreath Spirea	<i>Spiraea prunifolia</i>	B
Scotch Broom	<i>Cytisus sp.</i>	A
Bush Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	A
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleia sp.</i>	A
California Sweetshrub	<i>Calycanthus occidentalis</i>	B
Carolina Silverbell	<i>Halesia carolina</i>	B
Cherry Laurel	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	B
Chinese Juniper	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> cv.	B
Chinese Lilac	<i>Syringa x chinensis</i>	C
Coast Leucothoe	<i>Leucothoe axillaris</i>	B
Common Boxwood	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	A
Common Lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	B
Common Sweetshrub	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	B
Common Witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	B
Cranberry Bush	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	B
Cranberry Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster apiculatus</i>	B
Crape Myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	B
Creeping Juniper (1)	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i> cv.	B
Currant	<i>Ribes sp.</i>	B
Daphne	<i>Daphne sp.</i>	A
Deutzia	<i>Deutzia sp.</i>	B
Doublefile Viburnum	<i>Viburnum plicatum tomentosum</i>	B
Drooping Leucothoe	<i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>	A
English Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	B
Firethorn	<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	B
Forsythia	<i>Forsythia x intermedia</i>	B
Fothergillia	<i>Fothergilla sp.</i>	B
Fragrant Sumac	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	A
Fragrant Winterhazel	<i>Corylopsis glabrescens</i>	C
Glossy Abelia	<i>Abelia sp.</i>	B
Goldust Plant	<i>Aucuba japonica</i>	B
Contorted Filbert	<i>Corylus sp.</i>	B
Heath	<i>Erica sp.</i>	A
Heather	<i>Calluna sp.</i>	A
Heavenly Bamboo	<i>Nandina sp.</i>	C
Highbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	C
Holly Osmanthus	<i>Osmanthus heterophyllus</i>	B

Inkberry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	B
Japanese Flowering Quince	<i>Chaenomeles japonica</i>	B
Japanese Garden Juniper	<i>Juniperus procumbens</i> 'Nana'	B
Japanese Holly	<i>Ilex crenata</i>	C
Japanese Kerria	<i>Kerria japonica</i>	B
Japanese Andromeda	<i>Pieris japonica</i>	A
Japanese Plum Yew	<i>Cephalotaxus harringtonia</i>	A
Japanese Skimmia	<i>Skimmia japonica</i>	A
Japanese Spiraea	<i>Spiraea japonica</i>	B
Judd Viburnum	<i>Viburnum x juddii</i>	B
Koreanspice Viburnum	<i>Viburnum carlesii</i>	B
Leatherleaf Mahonia	<i>Mahonia bealei</i>	A
Leatherleaf Viburnum	<i>Viburnum rhytidophyllum</i>	B
Moonglow Juniper	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> 'Moonglow'	A
Mountain Laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	C
Mugo Pine	<i>Pinus mugo</i>	B
Oregon Grape Holly	<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	A
Panicked Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	C
Persian Lilac	<i>Syringa x persica</i>	C
Pfitzer Juniper	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Pfitzeriana'	B
Prince of Wales Juniper	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i> 'Prince of Wales'	A
Privet	<i>Ligustrum sp.</i>	B
Red Chokeberry	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	B
Redvein Enkianthus	<i>Enkianthus campanulatus</i>	B
Rockspray Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	B
Russian Cypress	<i>Microbiota decussata</i>	A
Saucer Magnolia	<i>Magnolia x soulangiana</i>	B
Savin/Tam Juniper	<i>Juniperus sabin cv.</i>	B
Shore Juniper	<i>Juniperus conferta</i>	C
Singleseed Juniper	<i>Juniperus squamata cv.</i>	B
Smokebush	<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	B
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	B
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	B
St. John's Wort	<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	B
Sweet Box	<i>Sarcococca hookeriana</i>	A
Sweet Mock Orange	<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>	B
Sweet Pepperbush	<i>Clethra sp.</i>	B
Virginia Sweetspire	<i>Itea virginica</i>	B
Weigela	<i>Weigela florida</i>	B
Willowleaf Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster salicifolius</i>	B
Winterberry Holly	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	B
Youngstown Andorra Juniper	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i> 'Youngstown'	B

	TREES	
Common Name	Latin Name	Rating
Allegheny Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	B
American Holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	A
Apple/Crabapple	<i>Malus sp.</i>	C
Atlantic White Cedar	<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	C
Austrian Pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i>	B
Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	C
Bottlebrush Buckeye	<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	A
Callery Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	C
Chinese Fringe Tree	<i>Chionanthus retusus</i>	B
Colorado Blue Spruce	<i>Picea pungens</i>	B
Common Pear	<i>Pyrus communis</i>	C
Cornelian Cherry	<i>Cornus mas</i>	C
Dawn Redwood	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	B
Douglas Fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	B
Dragon Lady, San Jose Holly	<i>Ilex x aquipernyi</i>	B
Dwarf Alberta Spruce	<i>Picea glauca 'Conica'</i>	A
Eastern Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	C
Eastern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	B
Eastern Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	C
Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	B
English Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>	B
European Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	B
European Larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>	C
European White Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	B
Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	C
Fraser Fir	<i>Abies fraseri</i>	C
Goldenrain Tree	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	B
Green Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	B
Greenspire Littleleaf Linden	<i>Tilia cordata 'Greenspire'</i>	C
Himalayan Birch	<i>Betula jacquemontii</i>	B
Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	B
Japanese Black Pine	<i>Pinus thunbergiana</i>	A
Japanese Cedar	<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>	B
Japanese Flowering Cherry	<i>Prunus serrulata</i>	B
Japanese Maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i>	B
Japanese Red Pine	<i>Pinus densiflora</i>	B
Kousa Dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	B
Leyland Cypress	<i>Cupressocyparis leylandii</i>	C
Mimosa	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	A
Nellie Stevens Holly	<i>Ilex x 'Nellie R. Stevens'</i>	C
Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	C
Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	C
Norway Spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>	B

Paperbark Maple	<i>Acer griseum</i>	B
Pernyi Holly	<i>Ilex pernyi</i>	C
Pitch Pine	<i>Pinus rigida</i>	A
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	B
Red Pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	A
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	A
Scotch Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	B
Serbian Spruce	<i>Picea omorika</i>	B
Shadbush	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	B
Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	C
Sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	B
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	B
Sweet Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	C
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	C
Tulip Tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	B
White Fir	<i>Abies concolor</i>	C
White Fringe Tree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	C
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	C
White Spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>	B
Willows	<i>Salix sp.</i>	C