

Best Deer Resistant Landscape Plants



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What landscape plants won't deer eat?!

This is the question that we have attempted to answer. First we collected deer resistant plant lists from across the Midwest - over 40 lists were collected. From this information we pulled the plants that were consistently listed as deer resistant. Our compiled list was sent out to over 400 nurserymen, educators, naturalist and garden enthusiasts asking whether they found any of the plants on the list to be a problem or are in fact left alone by deer. From the return responses we "compiled" this list, which represents the top picks of good landscape plants that are resistant *or minimally damaged* by deer.

***Note: Using plants from this list does not guarantee no deer damage to plants. Deer populations and deer taste preferences are variable and if you have large herds you are more likely to experience deer damage.**

Plants listed in **bold** are the plants most frequently agreed deer resistant.

ANNUALS

Ageratum
Allyssum
Cleome
Dusty Miller
Lantana
Nicotiana
Plectranthus argenteus
Blue Salvia
Snapdragon
Vinca (annual vine)
Zinnia anguatifolia

BULBS

Allium
Chionodoxa
Colchicum
Daffodil
Galanthus (Snowdrops)
Grape Hyacinth
Hyacinthoides (Squill)
Leucojum
Pushkinia

GROUNDCOVERS

Ajuga
Convallaria
(Lily of the Valley)
Galium
Lamiaeum
Lamium
Vinca minor
Pachysandra

VINES

Bignonia (Crossvine)
Campsis
Clematis paniculata
Lonicera sempervirens
Wisteria

FERNS

Japanese Painted Fern
Wood Fern
Ostrich Fern
Sensitive Fern
Cinnamon Fern
Royal Fern
Christmas Fern

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Miscanthus cultivars
Pennisetum cultivars
Arundo
Sporobolus
Panicum cultivars
Calamagrostis
Carex
Saccharum (Erianthus)

BAMBOO

Bamboo

SHRUBS

Abelia
Aesculus parviflora
Berberis (Barberry)
Buddleia
Callicarpa
Calycanthus
Caryopteris
Cotinus
Forsythia
Hypericum
Lespedeza 'Gibraltar'
Lindera
Myrica
Rhus aromatica
'Gro-Low'
Spirea
Symphoricarpus
Vitex
Yucca

EVERGREEN SHRUBS

Boxwood
Ilex glabra-Inkberry Holly
Mugo Pine
Cephalotaxus
Juniper (low growing-groundcover types)

EVERGREEN TREES

Magnolia grandiflora
'Bracken's Brown Beauty'
Picea abies
Picea pungens
Pseudotsuga menziesii

SHADE PERENNIALS

Aquilegia
Brunnera
Chelone
Dicentra
Epimedium
Galium odoratum
Helleborus
Huechera villosa
Lamium
Lamiaeum
Pulmonaria
Tiarella

PLANTS DEER LOVE MOST !

Roses
Hostas
Impatiens
Taxus
Blue Holly
China Holly
Euonymus
Rhododendron
Tulips
American Arborvitae
Daylily
Sedum
Phlox paniculata
Oakleaf Hydrangea
White Pine
Scabiosa

SUN PERENNIALS

Achillea
Aesclepias tuberosa
Alchemilla
Amsonia hubrichtii
Aquilegia canadensis
Artemesia
Aster lateriflorus 'Lady in Black'
Aster oblongifolius
'Raydon's Favorite'
Asteromoea mongolica
Baptisia australis
Calamintha
Chrysanthemum 'Becky'
Coreopsis lanceolata
Crocsmia
Dianthus 'Baths Pink', 'Firewitch', 'Mountain Mist'
Euphorbia myrsinites
Euphorbia robbiae
Geranium 'Biokova'
Geranium sanguineum
Iris
Lavendula
Liatris
Monarda
Oenothera
Paeonia
Perovskia
Rudbeckia (eat young foliage)
Salvia
Solidago
Stachys 'Helene Von Stein', 'Silver Carpet'
Thymus serpyllum
Veronica

If you have additions or corrections please contact us at deersurvey@cincinnati-zoo.org.