



Deer Resistant Plantings
“Hungry deer may eat anything.”



Which plants do deer like? First, let’s talk about what deer like to eat best. Deer love narrow-leaved evergreens, especially **arborvitae** and **fir** and show a particular preference for **hosta**, **daylilies** and **English ivy**. Researchers at University of Rhode Island report that the heaviest browsing occurs from October through February, when food is naturally scarce.

Which plants do deer dislike? Not surprisingly, deer tend to stay away from **poisonous plants**. **Daffodils**, **foxglove** and **poppies** are common toxic plants that deer typically avoid. Deer also turn their noses up at **plants with strong fragrances**. Herbs such as **sage**, **ornamental salvias** and **lavender**, as well as flowers such as **peonies** and **bearded iris** are just ‘stinky’ to deer. Prickly plants such as **lamb’s ear** are also not on the preferred menu (unless desperate).

Shrubs

- Aesculus parviflora* Bottlebrush Buckeye
- Berberis thunbergii* Japanese Barberry
- Buddleia davidii* Butterfly Bush
- Buxus sempervirens* Common Boxwood**
- Calycanthus floridus* Common Sweetshrub**
- Cephalotaxus* Japanese Plum Yew**
- Chaenomeles japonica* Flowering Quince
- Chamaecyparis* Cypress/ False Cypress
- Cotoneaster* Cotoneaster
- Daphne odora* Winter Daphne**
- Elaeagnus angustifolia* Russian Olive
- Euonymus alatus* Winged Euonymus
- Hamamelis virginiana* Common Witchhazel**
- Hibiscus syriacus* Rose of Sharon
- Ilex* Holly
- Juniperus* Junipers
- Kalmia latifolia* Mountain Laurel**
- Kerria japonica* Japanese Kerria
- Kolkwitzia amabilis* Beautybush
- Leucothoe* Leucothoe
- Ligustrum* Privet
- Mahonia aquifolium* Oregon Grape Holly
- Myrica pennsylvanica* Bayberry
- Nandina* Heavenly Bamboo**
- Pieris japonica* Japanese Andromeda**
- Salix* Willows
- Sambucus canadensis* Blueberry Elder
- Sarcococca hookeriana* Himalayan Sweetbox**
- Spiraea* Spiraea
- Syringa* Lilac

- Taxus cuspidate* Japanese Yew
- Thuja plicata* Western Arborvitae
- Viburnum* Viburnum
- Weigela florida* Old-Fashioned Weigela

Trees

- Acer* Maples
- Amelanchier canadensis* Serviceberry**
- Asimina trilobal* Paw Paw
- Cedrus* Atlas Cedar
- Cercis canadensis* Redbud
- Chamaecyparis obtusa* Hinoki Cypress
- Chamaecyparis pisifera* Japanese False Cypress
- Chionanthus virginicus* Fringe
- Cornus kousa* Kousa Dogwood**
- Cornus florida* Dogwood**
- Crataegus oxyacanthus* English Hawthorn
- Cryptomeria japonica* Japanese Cedar
- Fagus sylvatica* European Beech
- Ilex opaca* American Holly**
- Illicium parviflorum* Anise Tree
- Juniperus virginiana* Eastern Red Cedar
- Magnolia* Saucer & Star Magnolias
- Malus* Apples
- Nyssa sylvatica* Tupelo, Black Gum
- Picea* Spruce
- Prunus* Cherry
- Quercus* Oak
- Salix matudana* Corkscrew Willow
- Taxodium distichum* Bald Cypress
- Tsuga* Hemlock**

Annuals

- Ageratum houstonianum* Ageratum
- Angelonia* Angelonia
- Antirrhinum majus* Snapdragon
- Begonia* Wax Begonia**
- Celosia* Cockscomb
- Helianthus* Sunflowers
- Ipomoea alba* Moonflower
- Ipomoea purpurea* Morning Glory
- Jacobaea maritima* Dusty Miller
- Lobelia erinus* Lobelia
- Lobularia maritima* Sweet Alyssum
- Mimulus* Monkey Flower**
- Mirabilis* Four O’Clocks
- Nicotiana* Flowering Tobacco
- Pelargonium* Scented Geranium
- Petunia* Garden Petunia
- Salvia splendens* Scarlet Sage
- Tagetes* Marigold
- Tropaeolum majus* Nasturtium
- Vinca* Vinca
- Zinnia* Zinnia

Perennials

- Achillea millefolium* Yarrow
- Agastache Hyssop
- Ajuga* Bugleweed**
- Allium* Ornamental Onion
- Anemone* Anemone**
- Aquilegia* Columbine**
- Artemisia* Wormwood
- Asclepias* Butterfly Weed
- Aster novi-belgi* New York Asters
- Astilbe* Astilbe**
- Baptisia* False Indigo
- Bergenia* Pig Squeak**
- Boltonia* Boltonia Aster
- Centranthus* Jupiter’s Beard
- Chrysanthemum* Mums
- Cimicifuga* Snakeroot**
- Coreopsis lanceolata* Lance Coreopsis
- Delphinium elatum* Larkspur
- Dianthus* Dianthus
- Dicentra* Bleeding Heart**
- Digitalis* Foxglove**
- Echinacea purpurea* Purple Coneflower
- Eupatorium* Joe Pye Weed
- Filipendula* Meadowsweet**
- Gaillardia* Blanket Flower

Galium odoratum

- Gaura*
- Geranium***
- Geum*
- Gypsophila*
- Helenium*
- Helleborus***
- Hesperis*
- Heuchera*
- Hibiscus moscheutos*
- Iberis***
- Iris*
- Kniphofia*
- Lamium lamiastrum*
- Lantana*
- Liatris spicata*
- Linum*
- Lupinus*
- Lychnis coronaria*
- Lysimachia clethroides*
- Monarda didyma***
- Myosotis*
- Nepeta*
- Oenothera*
- Pachysandra terminalis*
- Papaver*
- Paonia*
- Penstemon*
- Perovskia*
- Phlox subulata*
- Polemonium***
- Primula*
- Salvia*
- Santolina*
- Saponaria*
- Scabiosa*
- Solidago*
- Stachys*
- Stokesia*
- Thalictrum***
- Tiarella*
- Veronica*
- Yucca*

Sweet Woodruff

- Guara
- Cranesbill**
- Geum
- Baby’s Breath
- Sneezeweed
- Hellebore**
- Dame’s Rocket
- Coral Bells
- Rose Mallow
- Candytuft**
- Iris**
- Red Hot Poker
- Lamium
- Lantana
- Gayfeather
- Flax
- Lupine
- Campion
- Gooseneck Loosestrife
- Beebalm**
- Forget-Me-Not
- Catmint, Catnip
- Sundrops
- Pachysandra
- Poppy
- Peony
- Beardtongues
- Russian Sage
- Creeping Phlox
- Jacob’s Ladder**
- Primrose
- Meadowsage
- Lavender Cotton
- Soapwort
- Pincushion Flower
- Goldenrod
- Lamb’s Ears
- Stoke’s Aster
- Foamflower**
- Speedwell
- Yucca

Most Herbs

Most Bulbs, except Tulips

Most Ferns

Most Ornamental Grasses

***Bold items tolerate shade**

