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# Deer & Rabbit Resistant Plant Guide

No plant is deer- or rabbit-proof! Garden plants are often browsed by hungry animals if there is little or no greenery to eat in the surrounding area. Also, animal likes and dislikes may vary regionally. The plants listed below are resistant or considered the second or third choice when dining on plant material. **A rule of thumb is that most plants with fuzzy leaves, a strong odor, a strap leaf or a needle, and drought tolerant natives fall into the resistant list.**

## Perennials

Ajuga  
 Alyssum (yellow)  
 Artemesia  
 Astilbe  
 Baby's Breath  
 Black-eyed Susan  
 Bleeding Heart  
 Brunnera  
 Butterfly Weed  
 Catmint  
 Columbine  
 Coneflower  
 Coral Bells  
 Coreopsis  
 Creeping Phlox  
 Delphinium  
 Epimedium  
 Ferns  
 Flax  
 Foxglove  
 Gaillardia  
 Gaura  
 Gloriosa Daisy  
 Ground Ivy  
 Hellebore  
 Hollyhocks  
 Hyssop  
 Iris  
 Jacob's Ladder  
 Lamb's Ears  
 Lamiastrum  
 Lamium  
 Larkspur

Lavender  
 Lavender Cotton  
 Lungwort  
 Lupine  
 Missouri Sundrops  
 Mexican Eve Primrose  
 Monarda  
 Monkshood  
 Pachysandra  
 Penstemon  
 Perennial Geranium  
 Poppy  
 Prairie Coneflower  
 Red Hot Poker  
 Red Valerian  
 Rock Cress  
 Russian Sage  
 Salvia  
 Snow in Summer  
 Succulents  
 Sunflower  
 Sweet Woodruff  
 Vinca Major/Minor  
 Yarrow

## Annuals, Bulbs & Vegetables

Allium  
 Artichoke  
 California Poppy  
 Cucumbers  
 Daffodil  
 Dill  
 Fritillaria  
 Garlic

Grape Hyacinth  
 Hops  
 Lantana  
 Lily of the Valley  
 Marigold  
 Mint  
 Morning Glory  
 Nicotiana  
 Onion  
 Oregano  
 Peppers  
 Rhubarb  
 Rosemary  
 Salvia  
 Snapdragon  
 Squash/pumpkin  
 Tomato  
 Verbena  
 Zinnia

## Shrubs

Apache Plume  
 Barberry  
 Beautyberry  
 Bluebeard/Caryopteris  
 Butterfly Bush  
 Boxwood  
 Cactus  
 Coralberry  
 Cotoneaster  
 Currant  
 Daphne Odora  
 Elderberry  
 Fernbush  
 Forsythia

Heavenly Bamboo  
 Holly  
 Juniper  
 Kerria  
 Lilac  
 Lydia Broom  
 Magnolia  
 Mockorange  
 Oregon Grape  
 Potentilla  
 Rabbitbrush  
 Rhododendron  
 Sand Cherry (not Cistena)  
 Scotch Broom  
 Siberian Pea  
 Silverberry  
 Smoke Tree  
 Snowberry  
 St. Johnswort  
 Spiraea  
 Viburnum (fuzzy-leaved)  
 Yew  
 Yucca

### Ornamental Grasses

Bamboo  
Feather Reed  
Fountain  
Hardy Pampas  
Maiden  
Switch

### Vines

Clematis  
Crossvine  
English Ivy  
Trumpet vine  
Trumpet Honeysuckle  
Virginia Creeper  
Wisteria

### Trees

Ash  
Black Locust  
Box Elder  
Catalpa  
Cypress  
Cedar  
Hawthorn  
Hackberry  
Hemlock  
Honey Locust  
Horsechestnut  
Kentucky Coffee  
Magnolia  
Maple  
Oak  
Pine (2- & 3-needle)  
Redbud  
Redwood  
Russian Olive  
Spruce  
Sumac  
Sycamore  
Walnut

### A practical program for combatting deer

- ◇ **Early Spring:** Hang sachets filled with *Milorganite* or *Dr. Earth* fertilizer around the area, or apply *Milorganite* or *Dr. Earth* (at half the recommended rate) around emerging bulbs and spring ephemerals. Reapply a month later. Applications of liquid foliar fertilizers/repellents, like *Liquid Fence Plus*, work equally well; just don't apply them in late summer or fall.
- ◇ **Late Spring/Summer:** Apply spray repellents like *Liquid Fence*, every three to four weeks once plants have fully leafed out. Spritz flower buds as they appear with an egg-based product like *DeerOff* or *Deer Away*; systemic products are not taken up by flower buds. *Deer Stopper* is a good alternative. Try the *Plotsaver* system that features a reusable Barrier Ribbon treated with *Plotsaver* Deer Repellent to create a powerful physical and sensory barrier.
- ◇ **Late summer/Fall:** Continue your summer program. Evaluate environmental and biological factors (like the abundance of food sources or the increase in deer numbers) to determine if you should rely on repellents or physical barriers, like fencing or burlap wraps, for the winter months.
- ◇ **Winter:** During the winter months, deer are even more ravenous because of the scarcity of other food sources. Odor—or taste-based repellents can be less effective during cold temperatures. Your applications of repellents should be even more disciplined during these months. Use of those repellents with high percentage of oils, such as the *Plotsaver* system & *Deer Stopper*, with rosemary & mint oils; *Deer Scram*, with garlic and cloves; or *Shake Away* with garlic oil. Remember, rotation is important. You don't want them to get used to any one thing.