



**CORNELL
COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION OF
ONEIDA COUNTY**

HOME GROWN FACTS

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Deer Resistant Plants

Homeowners are often faced with the dual problem of preventing deer from damaging a vegetable garden and/or a few fruit trees, while also protecting ornamental shrubs, flowers, and trees. In the first instance, the choice of garden plants is dictated by the owner's desire for specific products, so little compromise is possible. With ornamental plants, however, the homeowner has some additional latitude in choice of species and variant and may avert future problems and expenses by selecting landscape materials from a list of plants considered less desirable to deer.

Publications describing the most—and least—preferred food plants for deer are available. Such lists may vary somewhat across broad geographic regions but are generally reliable. This information can be useful both for selecting plants that are unlikely to be damaged by deer and identifying those ornamentals that almost certainly will require protection from deer, even in areas where populations are low and feeding patterns are selective.

This list is included only as a guideline and was developed from a variety of sources which may not all be equally reliable. Note that no plant is completely “deer-proof,” particularly when deer densities are high.

Woody Ornamental Plants Rarely Damaged by Deer

American holly

Common boxwood

Colorado blue spruce

Herbaceous Plants Rarely Damaged by Deer

Annuals and biennials

Ageratum

Morning Glory

Blanket flower

Parsley

Blue salvia

Polka-dot plant

Cleome

Poppy

Dahlia

Snapdragon

Dusty miller

Sweet alyssum

Edging lobelia

Sweet basil

Forget-me-not

Thorn apple

Four O'clock

Verbena

Heliotrope

Wax Begonia

Marigold

Zonal geranium

Helping You Put Knowledge to Work

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NYS College of Human Ecology, and NYS College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, Cooperative Extension associations, county governing bodies, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating.

Perennials

American bittersweet	Feverfew	Partridgeberry
Amsonia	Forget-me-not	Pennyroyal
Anemones	Garlic chives	Perennial blue flax
Angelica	Gas plant	Primrose
Astilbe	Globe thistle	Purple coneflower
Avens	Goatsbeard	Queen-of-the-prairie
Baby's breath	Goldenrod	Rhubarb
Balloon flower	Hay-scented fern	Ribbon grass
Barrenwort	Heath	Rosemary
Basket of gold	Heather	Royal fern
Bittersweet	Hellebore	Sage
Beebalm	Hungarian speedwell	Scilla
Bergenia	Interrupted fern	Sensitive fern
Bishop's weed	Jack-in-the-pulpit	Shasta dairy
Bleeding heart	Jacob's ladder	Soapwort
Boltonia	Japanese pachysandra	Spike gayfeather
Bugbane	Joe Pye weed	Statice
Bugleweed	Knapweed	Sundrops
Buttercup	Kirengeshoma	Sweet Cicely
Butterfly bush	Labrador violet	Sweet William
Candytuft	Lamb's ear	Sweet Woodruff
Christmas fern	Lavender	Tansy
Cinnamon fern	Lily-of-the-valley	Tiger lily
Cinquefoil	Lupine	Toadflax
Clematis	Lungwort	Turtlehead
Columbine	Mint	Tussock bellflower
Coreopsis	Mullein	Wisteria
Crown imperial	New York fern	Wormwood
Daffodil	Oregano	Yarrow
Dead nettle	Ornamental poppy	Yucca
Evening primrose	Painted daisy	

Woody Ornamental Plants Seldom Severely Damaged by Deer

American bittersweet	European beech	Mugo pine
Austrian pine	European white birch	Norway spruce
Beautybush	Forsythia	Pitch pine
Chinese holly	Honey locust	Red osier dogwood
Chinese junipers	Inkberry	Red pine
Common lilac	Japanese flowering cherry	Redvein enkianthus
Common sassafras	Japanese wisteria	Scots pine
Corkscrew willow	Kousa dogwood	White spruce
English hawthorn	Mountain laurel	

Woody Ornamental plants Occasionally Severely Damaged by Deer

Allegheny	Eastern hemlock	Rockspray cotoneaster
Serviceberry	Eastern red cedar	Rosebay rhododendron
Anthony water spirea	Eastern white pine	Rose of Sharon
Basswood	Eastern larch	Rugosa rose
Border forsythia	Firethorn	Saucer Magnolia
Bradford callery pear	Greenspire littleleaf linden	Silver maple
Bridalwreath spirea	Japanese cedar	Smokebush
Bush cinquefoil	Japanese flowering quince	Smooth hydrangea
Carolina hemlock	Japanese holly	Staghorn sumac
Carolina rhododendron	Japanese tree lilac	Sugar Maple
Chestnut oak	Judd viburnum	Sweet cherry
China girl/boy holly	Koreanspice viburnum	Sweet mock orange
Climbing hydrangea	Late lilac	Trumpet creeper
Common horsechestnut	Leatherleaf viburnum	Virginia creeper
Common pear	Northern red oak	White fir
Common witchhazel	Old fashioned weigelia	White Oak
Cranberry cotoneaster	Panicled dogwood	Willows
Dawn redwood	Panicled hydrangea	
Deciduous azaleas	Paperbark maple	
Doublefile viburnum	Persian lilac	
Douglas fir	Privet	
Downy serviceberry	Red Maple	

Herbaceous Plants Occasionally Damaged by Deer

Annual and biennials

Pansy	Sunflower
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Perennials

Coneflower	Iris	Sedum
Cranesbill geranium	Meadow rue	Wood hyacinth
English ivy	Peony	

Woody Ornamental Plants Frequently Severely Damaged by Deer

American arborvitae	Cornelian dogwood	Japanese yew
Atlantic white cedar	English ivy	Norway maple
Apples	English yew	Pinxterbloom azalea
Atlantic white cedar	English/Japanese hybrid yew	Plums
Balsam fir	European mountain ash	Rhododendrons
Catawba rhododendron	Evergreen azaleas	Wintercreeper
Cherries	Frazer fir	
Clematis	Hybrid tea rose	

Herbaceous Plants Frequently Damaged by Deer

Annuals and biennials

Hollyhocks	Impatiens	Mexican Sunflower
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Perennials

Cardinal flower	Daylily	Rose
Crocus	Hosta	Tulips

*This publication may contain pesticide recommendations. Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly and human errors are still possible. Some materials mentioned may no longer be available, and some uses may no longer be legal. All pesticides distributed, sold or applied in New York State must be registered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). Questions concerning the legality and/or registration status for pesticide use in New York State should be directed to the appropriate Cornell Cooperative Extension Specialist or your regional NYSDEC office. **Read the label before applying any pesticide.***

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Source: <http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/chdp/Reducingdeerdamage.htm>