



Deer: How to Browse-Proof Your Gardens

Wildlife in your backyard is something we all strive for, but when deer start to graze on your prized specimens, you reach your limit! What to do?

There are generally three types of barriers: chemical, visual and physical. Keep in mind, however, that if deer are starving they will eat even toxic material.

Plant quick growing plants that deer love at a distance from your plants you want to protect. This is known as distractive feeding. Deer are lazy and will eat the closest, most nutritious food they can find.

Deer are creatures of habit. They take the easiest and safest path to the food source and use it constantly. Hanging colored flags along the path on strings of wire at different heights will help to scare them off. Another option is installing a deer fence. This fence must be at least 8' high and anchored to the ground (check your zoning laws first!). Fishing line is also a good deterrent: tie several lines across the area you want protected. The line is nearly invisible and is harmless to the deer, while still being effective.

The use of scent is another method of protection. There are several over the counter products that are effective. Antifeedent sprays that contain combinations of egg yolks, garlic, peppermint oil and cinnamon have proven to be the most effective. Be sure to spray when there is a dry spell and reapply after rain, snow or hot weather. Also take caution that these products have an unpleasant odor.

There are some deer resistant plants that you can use to distract deer with, or they will at least leave as a last resort if they are starving. Attached is a list of deer deterrent and resistant plants to help keep your garden deer-free.





Deer Resistant Perennials and Shrubs

Perennials:

Botanical	Common	Botanical	Common
*Achillea	Yarrow	Eupatorium	Joe Pye Weed
Acontium	Monkshood	Ferns	Ferns
Ajuga	Bugleweed	Gaillardia	Blanket Flower
Aquilegia	Columbine	Lamium	Deadnettle
Artemisia	Artemisia	*Lavendula	Lavender
Asclepias	Butterfly Weed	Lupinus	Lupine
Astilbe	Astilbe	Mentha	Mint
Baptisia	False Indigo	Monarda	Bee Balm
Cerastium	Snow in Summer	*Nepeta	Cat Mint
Chrysanthemum		Pachysandra	Spurge
Clematis	Clematis	Papaver	Poppy
Dicentra	Bleeding Heart	Rudbeckia	Black Eyed Susan
Digitalis	Foxglove	*Salvia	Sage
Echinops	Globe Thistle	Veronica	Speedwell
Epimedium	Barrenwort	Vinca	Vinca

Trees and Shrubs:

Botanical	Common	Botanical	Common
Andromeda	Andromeda	Myrica	Bayberry
Aronia	Chokeberry	Picea abies	Birdsnest Spruce
Betula	Birch	Picea glauca	Alberta Spruce
Buddleia	Butterfly Bush	Pinus mugo	Mugo Pine
Buxus	Boxwood	Potentilla	Potentilla
Cercis	Redbud	Quince	Chaenomeles
Cornus florida	Flowering Dogwood	Rhododendron	Yaku
Cotinus	Smokebush	Rosa rugosa	Beach Rose
Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster	Salix	Willow
Forsythia	Forsythia	Spiraea	Spirea
Hydrangea anomala	Climbing Hydrangea	Syringa	Lilac
Kerria	Kerria	Thuja	Giant Arborvitae
Ligistrum	Privet	Weigela	Weigela
Lindera	Spicebush	Aunt Dee	Wisteria
Magnolia	Magnolia		

