

“Deer Resistant” Ornamental Plants

Deer, though native to our area and very cute, can do untold damage to your garden overnight. A 6-8' deer proof fence is the best insurance against damage but will only send the deer into your neighbors yards, which doesn't serve to help the problem. Allowing deer to access some of your property and landscaping with awareness of deer feeding habits can help reduce costly plant damage and may be more aesthetically pleasing as well.

This list is meant to be used as a general guide, keeping in mind that there are many variables affecting levels of damage. Deer population fluctuations, human population shifts, and the availability of natural food sources are just a few examples. The time of year and the taste preferences of individual deer will also affect the plants browsed.

The following “deer resistant” plants are hardy in the Portland area.



Perennials, Bulbs, Grasses, Herbs

Achillea spp., Yarrow
Agapanthus africanus, Lily of the Nile
Ajuga spp., Carpet Bugle
Allium schoenoprasum, Garden Chive
Aquilegia spp., Columbine
Arabis spp., Rockcress
Armeria spp., Thrift, Sea Pink
Artemisia spp., Artemesia
Arundo donax, Giant Reed
Asarum spp., Wild Ginger
Aster spp., Aster
Astilbe spp., False Spiraea
Campanula poscharskyana, Serbian Bellflower
Carex spp., Sedge
Cerastium tomentosum, Snow in Summer
Ceratostigma plumbaginoides, Plumbago
Centranthus ruber, Jupiter's Beard
Coreopsis spp., Tickseed
Crococsmia crocosmiflora, Crocosmia
Crocus spp., Crocus
Dahlia spp., Dahlia
Delphinium spp., Delphinium
Dicentra spp., Bleeding Heart
Digitalis spp., Foxglove
Echinacea spp., Coneflower
Erigeron spp., Fleabane
Eryngium spp., Sea Holly
Erysimum spp., Wallflower
Euphorbia spp., Spurge
Festuca glauca, Blue Fescue
Fragraria spp., Wild Strawberry
Frittilaria spp., Fritillary
Gaillardia aristata, Blanket Flower
Helianthemum spp., Sunrose
Helleborus spp., Hellebore
Hemerocallis spp., Daylily
Hosta spp., Plantain Lily
Hyssopus officinalis, Hyssop



Iris spp., Iris
Knifofia spp., Red Hot Poker
Lavendula spp., Lavender
Leucojum spp., Snowflake
Liatris spp., Gayfeather
Lithodora diffusa, Lithodora
Lupinus spp., Lupine
Mentha spp., Mint
Miscanthus sinensis, Silver Grass
Monarda spp., Beebalm
Narcissus spp., Daffodil, Narcissus
Origanum marjorana, Sweet Marjoram
Origanum vulgare, Oregano
Oxalis oregona, Redwood Sorrel
Papaver spp., Poppy
Phlomis spp., Phlomis
Polygonatum spp., Soloman's Seal
Pulmonaria spp., Lungwort
Rosmarinus officinalis, Rosemary
Romneya coulteri, Matilija Poppy
Rudbeckia spp., Blackeyed Susan
Ruta graveolens, Rue
Santolina spp., Cotton Lavender
Sedum spp., Stonecrop
Sisyrinchium spp., Blue-eyed Grass
Thymus spp., Thyme
Trillium spp., Wake Robin
Tulipa spp., Tulip
Zantedaschia spp., Calla Lily
Zauchneria spp., California Fuchsia



Shrubs and Climbers

Abelia x grandiflora, Glossy Abelia
Arctostaphylos spp., Manzanita
Berberis spp., Barberry
Buxus sempervirens, Boxwood
Calluna vulgaris, Scotch Heather
Calycanthus occidentalis, Spicebush
Celastrus scandens, American Bittersweet
Chamaerops humilis, European Fan Palm

Choisya ternata, Mexican Orange
Clematis spp., Clematis
Corylus spp., Hazelnut, Filbert
Cornus sericea, Redtwig Dogwood
Elaeagnus pungens, Silverberry
Garrya elliptica, Silktassel
Jasminum nudiflorum, Winter Jasmine
Juniperus spp., Juniper
Kalmia latifolia, Mountain Laurel
Lonicera spp., Honeysuckle
Mahonia spp., Oregon Grape
Myrica californica, Wax Myrtle
Pachystima myrsinites, Oregon Boxwood
Potentilla fruticosa, Cinquefoil
Ribes sanguinum, Red Flowering Current
Rhododendron spp., Rhododendron
Sambucus spp., Elderberry
Spiraea spp., Spiraea
Symphocarpus spp., Snowberry
Syringa spp., Lilac
Vaccinium ovatum, Evergreen Huckleberry
Wisteria spp., Wisteria

Trees



Abies spp., Fir
Acacia spp., Acacia
Betula spp., Birch
Chamaecyparis spp., False Cypress
Ficus carica, Fig
Fraxinus spp., Ash
Ginkgo biloba, Maidenhair Tree
Lithocarpus densiflorus, Tan Oak
Picea spp., Spruce
Quercus spp., Oak
Rhus spp., Sumac
Sequoia sempervirens, Coast Redwood
Tilia cordata, Littleleaf Linden
Tsuga spp., Hemlock
Umbellularia californica, California Laurel

Temporary Barriers

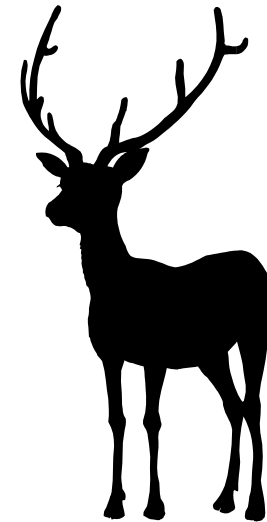
Any small, recently planted plants are especially prone to being yanked up from the ground. Young trees are vulnerable until they have grown to a 4' minimum. Several types of mini-barriers can be constructed at home, or are available for purchase. These are intended to be set up for plant protection until plants are sturdy and large enough.

Mini fences to protect individual plants or small beds should be 5' high and staked to the ground. Tree guards protect tree trunks from antler rubbing and are wrapped around any size trunk, then cut to fit. These can be made from chicken wire and are also commercially available. Tender bud tips of young conifers can be protected by simply a sleeve of folded and stapled paper over them until they harden a bit.



Deer Resistant Ornamentals

Plants Which Have
Hopes of Surviving in
Deer Country
As Well As
Some Tips on
Thwarting Deer



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