



# Deer Resistant Gardens



By: Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens © 2004

Over 40 deer resistant plant lists were collected from across the Midwest. The most consistently referenced plants were recompiled into a new list and sent to over 400 educators, nurserymen, naturalists, and garden enthusiasts asking if they found these plants to be unaffected by deer. From the return responses, the following list was assembled, which represents the top picks of good landscape plants that are resistant or minimally damaged by deer.

NOTE: Using plants in this list does not guarantee against deer damage. Deer populations and deer taste preferences are variable. If you have large herds, you will be more likely to experience deer damage to some degree. However, avoidance of feeding the deer, using deer resistant plants, environmentally safe deer repellants, and deer fencing are the most successful deterrents.

## ANNUALS

Ageratum\*  
Allyssum

Cleome\*  
Dusty Miller

Lantana\*  
Nicotiana  
Plectranthus

Salvia  
Snapdragon

Vinca Vine  
Zinnia

## BULBS

Allium  
Chionodoxa

Colchicum  
Daffodil\*

Galanthus  
'Snowdrops'

Grape Hyacinth  
Hyacinthoides

Leucojum  
Pushkinia

## GROUNDCOVERS

Ajuga\*

Convallaria\*  
Galium

Lamiaeum

Lamium  
Vinca minor

Pachysandra

## FERNS

Japanese Painted

Wood Fern  
Ostrich Fern

Sensitive Fern

Cinnamon Fern  
Royal Fern

Christmas Fern

## ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Miscanthus\*  
Pennisetum\*

Arundo

Sporobolus  
Panicum\*

Calamagrostis

Carex  
Saccharum

## VINES

Bignonia

Campsis

Clematis

Lonicera

Wisteria

\* Indicates plants most frequently agreed to be deer resistant

## SHRUBS

Abelia	Callicarpa	Forsythia	Lindera	Spiraea*
Aesculus	Calycanthus	Hypericum	Myrica*	Symphoricarpus
Barberry*	Caryopteris*	Lespedeza	Rhus	Vitex*
Buddleia*	Cotinus	'Gibraltar'	'Gro-Low'	Yucca

## EVERGREEN SHRUBS

Boxwood*	Cephalotaxus*	Inkberry Holly	Juniper - low growing	Mugo Pine*
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## EVERGREEN TREES

Magnolia 'Bracken's Brown Beauty'	Picea abies	Picea pungens	Psuedotsuga
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## SUN PERENNIALS

Achillea*	Aster	Dianthus*	Geranium 'Biokova'	Perovskia*
Aesclepias	'Raydons Fav.'	'Baths Pink'	Geranium	Salvia*
Alchemilla	Asteromoea	'Firewitch'	sanguineum	Solidago
Amsonia	Baptisia	'Mountain Mist'	Iris*	Stachys*
Aquilegia	Bee Balm	Euphorbia	Lavender*	'Helene Von Stein'
Artemesia*	Calamintha	myrsinites	Liatris	Thymus*
Aster	Coreopsis	Euphorbia	Oenothera	serpyllum
'Lady in Red'	Crocsmia	robbiae	Peony*	Veronica

## SHADE PERENNIALS

Aquilegia	Chelone	Galium*	Heuchera	Pulmonaria
Brunnera*	Dicentra	Helleborus*	Lamium	Tiarella
	Epimedium*		Lamiastrum	

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## PLANTS THAT DEER LOVE MOST!!

Arborvitae	Holly - Blue & China	Oakleaf Hydrangea	Roses	Taxus
Day Lily	Hosta	Phlox paniculata	Scabiosa	Tulips
Euonymus	Impatiens	Rhododendron	Sedum	White Pine

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