

# ABIDE A WHILE

GARDEN BOUTIQUE



TIPS FOR A DEER RESISTANT PERENNIAL GARDEN

## Deer in Your Garden

Most gardeners have a love/hate relationship with deer. Here are some strategies for making your garden less appetizing and for keeping them at bay.

The first step in keeping deer out of your yard is to not plant an all night buffet of their favorite foods! While there is no such thing as a deer-proof plant, there are deer resistant plants. Although it may take some trial and error to find out what your deer don't like.

Deer resistant plants will usually have some characteristic that makes them implantable to deer, as seen here...

- Plants that may have a bitter flavor, thorny stems or strong scent or odor. (Example: Lantana)
- Perennial herbs that are also strongly scented. (Example: Rosemary)
- Plants with thickened, tough leaves. (Example: Hellebore 'Lenton Rose')
- Plants with a prickly feel. (Example: Acanthus)
- Plants with hairy leaves that have a coarse, sand paper feel. (Example: Coral Bells, Black Eye Susan, Blanket Flower)
- Plants with sap. (Example: False Indigo, Cushion Spurge)

Knowing what plants deer do not care for can be a big help in planning and planting your perennial garden. Since deer rely heavily on their sense of smell for feeding, adding patches of strongly scented herbs or perennials (such as Rosemary or Society Garlic) can mask the aroma of other plants. If deer enter your garden from a certain point, plant thorny, hairy or prickly foliaged plants in that area. Planting large, sprawling hedges of deer resistant shrubs around your property may help as well.

Deer can be fairly easily frightened by new things, so garden ornaments with moving parts, scarecrows, and wind chimes may scare them away. Deer repellents can also be an effective means of keeping deer away. There are several commercially available deer repellents strays. Some smell like rotten eggs and garlic while other smell much more pleasant and made from essential oils. These can be effective but need to be re-applied after rain. Different products should be alternated since deer can become accustomed to any one product. When using these spray repellents, start spraying from the ground and continue 6 feet high. It may be worthwhile to spray brand new nursery plants in your garden. It may take them a few months to develop the bitter taste or strong smell that will keep the deer away from them after they mature.

Deer are afraid of anything new, but they learn and adapt quickly. Try several different strategies and repellents; rotate these in order to stay ahead of them. If you don't have a serious deer problem yet, now is the best time to start using deterrents. Train the deer to stay out of your yard before they become a problem.

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## Deer Resistant Perennials

- Acanthus sp. (Bear's Breeches) sp.  
Achillea filipendulina (Yarrow)  
Acora sp. (Sweet Flag)  
Agapanthus sp. and cultivars (Lily of the Nile or African Lily)  
Agastache sp. (Hyssop)  
Agave sp. (Century Plant)  
Amsonia sp. (Bluestar)  
Artemisia s. (Wormwood)  
Ajuga sp. (Bugleweed)  
Alocasia sp. (Elephant Ear)  
Asarum sp. (Wild Ginger)  
Asclepius sp. (Butterfly Week of Milkweed)  
Asparagus sp. (Asparagus Fern)  
Aspidistra sp. (Cast Iron Plant)  
Athyrium sp. (Lady Fern)  
Bambusa multiplex (Clumping Bamboo)  
Baptisia sp. (False Indigo)  
Brugmansia sp. (Angels Trumpet)  
Buddleia sp. and cultivars (Butterfly Bush)  
Bulbine fruticosa  
Carex (sedge)  
Caryopteris sp. and hybrids (Bluebeard)  
Chasmanthium latifolium (Northern Sea Oats)  
Cheilanthes sp. (Lip Fern)  
Colocasia esculenta (Elephant Ears)  
Coreopsis sp. (Tickseeds)  
Crococsmia sp.  
Crinum sp. (Crinum Lily)  
Cyrtomium sp. (Holly Fern)  
Dianthus sp.  
Dietes orioles (White African Iris)  
Dryopteris sp. (Male Fern)  
Echinacea sp. (Cone Flower)  
Euroyops (Bush Daisy)  
Farfugium sp. (Tractor Seat Plant)  
Festuca glauca (Blue Fescue)  
Foeniculum vulgare (Fennel)  
Gaillardia sp. (Blanket Flower)  
Guara sp. (Wand Flower)  
Hamelia patens (Mexican Firebush)  
Helianthus angustifolius (Swamp Sunflower)  
Hellebores sp. (Lenton Rose)  
Heuchera sp. (Coral Bells)  
Iberis sp. (Candytuft)  
Iris sp. and cultivars  
Juncus sp. (Rush)  
Kniphofia uvaria (Red Hot Poker)  
Lamium sp. (Dead Nettle)  
Lavandula sp. (Lavender)  
Lespedeza sp. (Bush Clover)  
Liatris sp. (Gay-feather)  
Ligularia sp. (Leopard Plant)  
Lysimachia nummularia (Moneywort)  
Malvastrum sp. (Turks Cap)  
Matteuccia sp. (Ostrich Fern)  
Mazus reptans (Creeping Mazus)  
Mentha sp. (Mint)  
Mondarda sp. (Bee Balm)  
Muhlenbergia sp. (Muhly grass, Sweet Grass)  
Nepeta sp. and hybrids (Cat Mint)  
Origanum sp. (Oregano)  
Panicum sp. (Switch Grass)  
Pennisetum sp. (Fountain Grass)  
Perovskia atriplicifolia (Russian Sage)  
Phlox subulata (Creeping Phlox)  
Polystichum sp. (Lungwort)  
Rosmarinus officinalis (Rosemary)  
Rudbeckia sp. (Black-eyed Susan)  
Salvia sp.  
Santolina chamaecyparissus (Lavender Cotton)  
Sempervivens sp. (Hens and chicks)  
Setcreasea sp. and hybrids (Lamb's Ear)  
Tagetes demoni (Lemon Marigold)  
Tanacetum vulgare (Tansy)  
Tiarella cordifolia (Foam Flower)  
Tricyrtis hirta (Toad Lily)  
Tulbaghia violacea (Society Garlic)  
Verbena sp.  
Veronica sp. (Speedwell)

*Note:* We cannot warranty any plant that a deer or animal damages in your yard.