

DEER

Dealing with Deer in the Garden

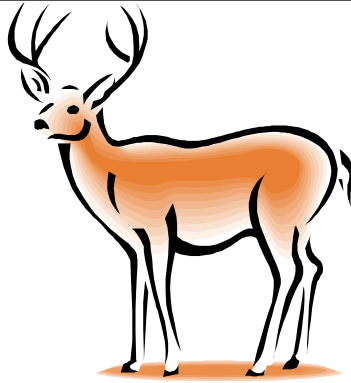
Their numbers have been exploding. They're strictly vegetarians. Their only nearby predators are man and cars. And an average adult can eat between 4 and 6 pounds of food per day. Add all of those up and it's no wonder why deer are such a big problem for gardeners around here.

Deer not only are big eaters, they're also not the slightest bit picky. They typically eat any of 500 different varieties of plants, but if they're really hungry, they'll eat just about anything short of the spiniest of cactuses. And they feed all year long.

They're also destructive in ways other than eating. In late summer and early fall, bucks damage tree bark when they rub the velvet coating off their antlers. And on their way to browse on favorite plants, deer also often trample plants they're not interested in eating.

Repelling Them

Tall fencing is still the best way to keep deer away from plantings. The next best thing is to take advantage of two weaknesses of Deer—They're creatures of habit and they are easily scared. Anything you can do to mess up their habits or to make them think there's danger nearby might be enough to make them go elsewhere in search of food.



Deer aren't stupid, though. If they realize the danger isn't real, they'll boldly return. That's why it's important to rotate any repellents or scare tactics you try.

Deer-weary gardeners have tried lots of scare tactics over the years with varying success. Some of these include radios, whistles, hanging pie plates, motion-sensing lights and even propane cannons

set to go off automatically. Most don't work for very long. One of the best scare devices, though, is a dog, preferably one that barks loud and a lot.

There are also repellents, ranging from commercial products such as Liquid Fence and Deer Scram, to homemade "teas." Repellents are effective so long as they are regularly applied.

Plants Deer Love MOST!

Roses	Hostas
Impatiens	Taxus
Blue Holly	China Holly
Euonymus	Tulips
Rhododendron	Daylily
Am. Arborvitae	Sedum
Phlox	White Pine
Oakleaf Hydrangea	Scabiosa

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Deer Resistant Landscape Plants

DEERSCAPING

Your last line of defense is to use fewer of the plants deer like best and more of the ones they usually don't eat. Following are some of the plants that deer are least likely to eat.

Note: Using plants from this list does not guarantee no deer damage to plants.

ANNUALS

Ageratum Marigold
Allyssum Nicotiana
Cleome Plectranthus
Dusty Miller Salvia
Gomphrena Snapdragon
Lantana Vinca
Zinnia

BULBS

Allium Snowdrops
Chionodoxa Leucojum
Colchicum Pushkinia
Daffodil
Grape Hyacinth
Hyacinthoides

GROUNDCOVERS

Ajuga
Convallaria (Lily of the Valley)
Galium (Sweet Woodruff)
Lamiaeum Lamium
Vinca minor Pachysandra

VINES

Bignonia (Crossvine)
Campsis (Trumpetvine)
Clematis
Lonicera (Trumpet Honey-suckle)
Wisteria

FERNS

Japanese Painted Fern
Wood Fern
Ostrich Fern
Sensitive Fern
Cinnamon Fern
Royal Fern
Christmas Fern

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Miscanthus cultivars
Pennisetum cultivars
Arundo
Sporobolus
Panicum cultivars
Calamagrostis
Carex
Saccharum (Erianthus)
Bamboo

PERENNIALS

Achillea Alchemilla
Amsonia Aquilegia
Artemesia Aruncus
Astilbe Asclepias
Aster Baptisia
Bergenia Brunnera
Calamintha Chelone
Coreopsis Crocosmia
Dianthus Dicentra
Digitalis Iris
Epimedium Euphorbia
Lavandula Helleborus
Helleborus Geranium
Geranium Liatris
Lychnis Lysmachia
Monarda Oenothera
Paeonia Perovskia
Papaver Pulmonaria
Rudbeckia Salvia
Solidago Stachys
Teucrium Tiarella
Thymus Veronica
Yucca

SHRUBS

Abelia
Aesculus (Bottlebrush Buck-eye)
Berberis (Barberry)
Buddleia (Butterfly Bush)
Callicarpa (Beautyberry)
Calycanthus (Sweetshrub)
Caryopteris
Cotinus (Smoke Bush)
Forsythia
Hamamelis (Witch Hazel)
Hypericum (St. Johnswort)
I tea
Juniper
Lespedeza
Syringa (Lilac)
Lindera (spicebush)
Myrica (Bayberry)
Rhus (Sumac)
Spiraea
Viburnum
Vitex
Weigela

EVERGREEN SHRUBS

Boxwood
Inkberry Holly
Mugo Pine
Juniper

EVERGREEN TREES

Magnolia 'Bracken's Brown Beauty'
Norway Spruce
Blue Spruce
Douglas Fir