

PACIFIC NORTHWEST GUIDE TO DEER PROOF GARDENING

The beauty of deer in the Pacific Northwest is often forgotten when the plants we've carefully selected and purchased for our landscape are eaten by our native friends. There is no exact science to "deer proofing" your garden.

All plants may be browsed once by deer, especially by young deer who have not yet learned what tastes best. Certain plants that deer heavily eat in your yard may be left untouched in another's yard. However, there are many plants, for all gardening styles, that deer *tend to avoid*. We can also make it difficult or undesirable for deer to eat our plants. Through scare tactics, repellents, and prevention, one can create a nearly deer proof landscape.

Deer rip leaves when they browse. They do not cut leaves like rabbits. They tend to prefer tender, new growth, and leave plants with a shaggy, ragged appearance with torn leaf edges. Hedging plants palatable to deer, like arborvitae, often have a "narrow middle" resulting from the deer browsing in that area. Deer can also damage plants by rubbing their antlers on the trunks. Small trees are most seriously damaged by antler rubbing. This damage usually occurs in the fall as the "fuzz" sheds from their antlers.

SCARE TACTICS

A dog that runs free is by far the best scare tactic to keep deer away. Dogs "marking the perimeter" as well as barking will likely scare the deer away. Sometimes even just a few dogs in the neighborhood keep the deer away from many homes. Also, at your disposal are *motion sensing sprinklers* that scare deer away by shooting out a stream of water when deer are nearby. Also somewhat effective are strips of mylar or old cds hung from trees. The reflected light and motion scare the deer.

REPELLENTS

There are two basic kinds of deer repellents: *area repellents* and *contact repellents*. **Area repellents** are applied to discourage deer from entering an area. Often these are granular products that are sprinkled around the area needing protection. Planting fragrant plants (e.g. rosemary, lavender, juniper) often confuse deer and/or deter them. Members of the genus *Allium* (e.g. chives, garlic, onions, scallions, shallots, ornamental onions)

irritate deer. When interplanted among other plants (e.g. roses, tulips) *Alliums* tend to deter deer browsing.

Contact repellents are often liquid products with a horrible taste that are applied directly to foliage and plants to deter deer browsing. Deer prefer new growth, so be sure to apply in spring as new leaves emerge, covering plants thoroughly. Also remember to reapply repellents, because their effectiveness won't last forever in our rainy climate. Also remember that few deer repellents are designed for edible plants in your vegetable garden. *Read the entire label before using!*

DEER RESISTANT PLANTS

Remember that there are very few plants that deer *never* eat. Any plant may be browsed once, especially by young deer. Furthermore, one bite may be enough to ruin the season for that plant, e.g tulips. Regular deer browsing may not kill a plant, but the plant may remain unshapely and ragged looking for years. For best results use a deer repellent and select from this list of deer resistant plants....

MANY ORNAMENTAL GRASSES & SEDGES ARE DEER RESISTANT:

Festuca, *Carex*, Blue Oat Grass, Black Mondo Grass, *Miscanthus*, *Calamagrostis*, etc.

MANY COMMON GROWDCOVERS ARE DEER RESISTANT:

Kinnikinnick, Salal, Wintergreen, Creeping Thyme, Ivy, Vinca, Oregon Grape, Lithodora, Pachysandra, etc.

FERNS TEND TO BE DEER RESISTANT:

Sword Fern, Deer Fern, Japanese Painted Fen, Maidenhair Fern, Alaska Fern, Tassel Fern, Lady Fern, etc...

DEER RESISTANT TREES

White Fir	<i>Abies concolor</i>
Maples	<i>Acer</i>
Silk tree	<i>Albizia</i>
Tree Aralia	<i>Aralia elata</i>
Monkey Puzzle Tree	<i>Araucaria araucarioides</i>
Madrona	<i>Arctostaphylos</i>
Paw Paw	<i>Asimina trilobata</i>
Birch	<i>Betula</i>
Incense Cedar	<i>Calocedrus</i>

Catalpa
Deodar Cedar
Hinoki Cypress
Persimmon
Eucalyptus
Ash
Walnut
All Junipers
Sweetgum
All Spruces
All Pines
Douglas Fir
Oak
Black Locust
Elderberry

Catalpa
Cedrus deodora
Chamaecyparis
Diospyros
Eucalyptus
Fraxinus
Juglans
Juniper
Liquidambar
Picea
Pinus
Pseudotsuga
Quercus
Robinia
Sambucus

DEER RESISTANT SHRUBS

Abelia
Vine Maple
Strawberry Tree
Barberry
Butterfly Bush
Boxwood
Summer Heather
Spicebush
Caryopteris/Blue Beard
California Lilac
Bittersweet
Flowering Quince
Hinoki Cypress
Mexican Orange
Rock Rose
Corokia
Hazelnut
Cotoneaster
Cypress
Daphne
Eleagnus
Winter Heather
Japanese Aralia
Forsythia

Abelia
Acer circinatum
Arbutus unedo
Berberis
Buddleia
Buxus
Calluna
Calycanthus
Caryopteris
Ceanothus
Celastrus
Chaenomeles
Chamaecyparis
Choysia ternata
Cistus
Corokia
Corylus
Cotoneaster
Cupressus
Daphne
Eleagnus
Erica
Fatsia japonica
Forsythia

Rose of Sharon	<i>Hibiscus</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex</i>
Juniper	<i>Juniper</i>
Mountain Laurel	<i>Kalmia</i>
Kerria	<i>Kerria japonica</i>
Beauty Bush	<i>Kolkwitzia</i>
Golden Chain Tree	<i>Laburnum</i>
Larch	<i>Larix</i>
Bay Laurel	<i>Laurus nobilis</i>
Leucothoe	<i>Leucothoe</i>
Privet	<i>Ligustrum</i>
Spice Bush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>
Box Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera nitida</i>
Magnolia	<i>Magnolia</i>
Oregon Grape	<i>Mahonia spp.</i>
Heavenly Bamboo,	<i>Nandina spp.</i>
Lily of the Valley Shrub	<i>Pieris spp.</i>
Potentilla	<i>Potentilla</i>
Firethorn	<i>Pyracantha</i>
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron</i>
Rugosa Rose	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>
Sweet Box/Sarcococca	<i>Sarcococca</i>
Spiraea	<i>Spiraea</i>
Lilac	<i>Syringa spp.</i>
Huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>
Burkwood Viburnum	<i>Viburnum burkwoodii</i>
David Viburnum	<i>Viburnum davidii</i>
Spr. Bouquet Viburnum	<i>Viburnum tinus</i>
Wisteria	<i>Wisteria</i>
Yucca	<i>Yucca</i>

DEER RESISTANT PERENNIALS

Yarrow	<i>Achillea</i>
Monkshood	<i>Aconitum</i>
Bugbane	<i>Actaea/Cimicifuga</i>
Lily of the Nile	<i>Agapanthus</i>
Anise Hyssop	<i>Agastache</i>
Bugleweed	<i>Ajuga</i>
Allium, Garlic, Chives	<i>Allium</i>
Anemone	<i>Anemone</i>

Japanese Anemone	<i>Anemone</i>
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia</i>
Rock Cress	<i>Arabis & Aubrieta</i>
Artemisia	<i>Artemisia</i>
Wormwood	<i>Artemisia</i>
Tarragon	<i>Artemisia dracuncululus</i>
Astilbe	<i>Astilbe</i>
Bergenia	<i>Bergenia</i>
Bellflower, Campanula	<i>Campanula</i>
Bachelor Button	<i>Centaurea</i>
Snow in Summer	<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>
Turtlehead	<i>Chelone</i>
Mums	<i>Chrysanthemum</i>
Bugbane	<i>Cimicifuga / Actaea</i>
Lily of the Valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>
Squash	<i>Cucurbita</i>
Cyclamen	<i>Cyclamen</i>
Delphinium	<i>Delphinium</i>
Dianthus, Carnation	<i>Dianthus</i>
Sweet William	<i>Dianthus</i>
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis</i>
Globe Thistle	<i>Echinops</i>
Bishop's Hat/Barren Wort	<i>Epimedium</i>
Euphorbia	<i>Euphorbia</i>
Fennel, Bronze fennel	<i>Foeniculum</i>
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula</i>
Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria</i>
Sweet Woodruff	<i>Galium</i>
Salal, Wintergreen	<i>Gaultheria</i>
Gunnera	<i>Gunnera</i>
Jerusalem Artichoke	<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>
Hellebore, Lenten Rose	<i>Helleborus</i>
St. John's Wort	<i>Hypericum</i>
Candytuft	<i>Iberis</i>
Iris-Bearded, Siberian	<i>Iris</i>
Lavender	<i>Lavandula</i>
Chrysanthemum	<i>Leucanthemum</i>
Shasta Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum</i>
Toadflax	<i>Linaria</i>
Blue Flax, perennial flax	<i>Linum</i>
Lithodora	<i>Lithodora</i>

Lupine	<i>Lupinus</i>
Rose Campion	<i>Lychnis coronaria</i>
Mints	<i>Mentha</i>
Bee Balm	<i>Monarda</i>
Forget Me Not	<i>Myosotis</i>
Catnip	<i>Nepeta cataria</i>
Catmint	<i>Nepeta</i>
Basil	<i>Ocimum</i>
Oregano	<i>Origanum</i>
Iceland Poppy	<i>Papaver nudicaule</i>
Oriental Poppy	<i>Papaver orientale</i>
New Zealand Flax	<i>Phormium</i>
Balloon Flower	<i>Platycodon</i>
Rhubarb	<i>Rheum</i>
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus</i>
Sage	<i>Salvia officinalis</i>
Lavender Cotton	<i>Santolina</i>
Soapwort	<i>Saponaria</i>
Potato	<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>
Germander	<i>Teucrium</i>
Thyme	<i>Thymus</i>
Windmill Palm	<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>
Mullein, Verbascum	<i>Verbascum</i>
Calla Lily	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>

DEER RESISTANT BULBS, CORMS, TUBERS, etc...

Allium, Garlic, Chives	<i>Allium</i>
Colchicum	<i>Colchicum</i>
Lily of the Valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>
Crocsmia, Montbretia	<i>Crocsmia</i>
Crocus	<i>Crocus</i>
Dahlia	<i>Dahlia</i>
Snowdrop	<i>Galanthus</i>
Gladiola	<i>Gladiolus</i>
Jerusalem Artichoke	<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>
Iris-Bearded, Siberian	<i>Iris</i>
Daffodil/Narcissus	<i>Narcissus</i>
Calla Lily	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>

ANNUALS & TENDER PERENNIALS

Ageratum	<i>Ageratum</i>
Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum</i>
Wax/Fibrous Begonia	<i>Begonia</i>
Angel's Trumpet	<i>Brugmansia</i>
Bachelor Buttons	<i>Centaurea</i>
Larkspur	<i>Consolida</i>
Datura	<i>Datura</i>
Dracaena	<i>Dracaena/Cordyline</i>
California Poppy	<i>Eschsholzia</i>
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus</i>
Strawflower	<i>Helichrysum</i>
Heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium</i>
Impatiens	<i>Impatiens</i>
Toadflax, Linaria	<i>Linaria</i>
Lobelia	<i>Lobelia erinus</i>
Scented Geranium	<i>Pelargonium</i>
Geranium	<i>Pelargonium</i>
Petunia	<i>Petunia</i>
Zinnia	<i>Zinnia</i>

PLANTS THAT DEER REALLY LOVE TO EAT

Deer *really* like to eat these plants. If you absolutely must have these plants, be sure to use a repellent or have scare tactic ready at hand!

TREES & SHRUBS

Redbud	<i>Cercis</i>
Twig Dogwood	<i>Cornus spp.</i>
Smoke Bush	<i>Cotinus</i>
Escallonia	<i>Escallonia</i>
Burning Bush	<i>Euonymus alata</i>
Euonymus	<i>Euonymus</i>
Gingko	<i>Gingko</i>
Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis</i>
Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea</i>
Apple & Crabapple	<i>Malus</i>
Red Tip Photinia	<i>Photinia</i>
Cherry (flowering, fruiting)	<i>Prunus</i>
English Laurel	<i>Prunus</i>
Portuguese Laurel	<i>Prunus</i>
Otto Luyken Laurel	<i>Prunus</i>

Azalea (new growth tips)
Rose – most kinds
Arborvitae
Any Thuja

Rhododendron
Rosa
Thuja
Thuja

ANNUALS & PERENNIALS

Daylily
Heuchera
Hosta
Peony (flower buds)
Upright phlox
Solomon's Seal
Upright Sedum
Tulip
Most plant in the veggie garden, e.g. lettuce, beans, etc.

Hemerocallis
Heuchera
Hosta
Paeonia
Phlox paniculata
Polygonatum
Sedum spectabile
Tulipa