

Deer and Your Garden

As our area's population increases and predators are eliminated, the local whitetail deer are increasing in numbers and are being crowded into less and less space. Their natural food supply is dwindling, yet they have to eat something. So... they feed on people's gardens. Most people love to see deer; but once deer start munching on your prize roses, your attitude may change. You might just choose to ignore the deer's ravenous appetites and accept their presence. On the other hand you may want to do something about them, but what?

Repellants are available in many forms: soaps, urine, human hair, blood meal and commercial sprays have all been used with varying degrees of success. Some work, some don't. Dogs have been used fairly successfully on the East Coast to chase deer away. The dogs are kept inside an enclosure with an invisible fence and patrol the lines.

Fencing is the only sure way to protect your garden. Solid or wire fences 6-8 feet tall are necessary. Electric fencing is very effective if installed properly. Deer jump very high, will crawl under and leap through gaps in fences – design and maintenance are critical. A very good free publication, "Controlling Nuisance Deer", is available from the Arkansas Department of Wildlife.

Planting deer resistant plants, shrubs or trees that simply don't taste good to the animals is a good option. One thing you must remember, however, is that a starving deer will eat most anything when its favorite browse is not available.

The following is a new list of plants that should be fairly deer-proof most of the time:

TREES

Abies sp.	True Firs		Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweet Gum
Acer circinatum	Vine Maple		Magnolia sp.	Magnolia
Acer negundo	Box Elder		Picea sp.	Spruce
Acer Palmatum	Japanese Maple		Pinus sp.	Pine
Albizia sp.	Silk Tree		Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir
Araucaria sp.	Monkey Puzzle		Rhus sp.	Sumac
Cedrus sp.	True Cedars		Robinia pseudoacacia	Black Locust
Cercis occidentalis	Western Redbud		Sequoiadendron sp.	Giant Sequoia
Chamerops humilis	Medium Fan Palm		Sorbus aucuparia	European Mt. Ash
Clematis sp.	Clematis		Thuja plicata	Western Red Cedar
Ginkgo biloba	Ginkgo		Trachycarpus fortunei	Windmill Palm
Juglans sp.	Walnut			

SHRUBS

Abelia sp.	Abelia		Ilex sp.	Holly
Adiantum	Maidenhair Fern		Juniperus sp.	Juniper
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree		Kolkwitzia amabilis	Beauty Bush
Aronia Arbutifolia	Chokecherry		Mahonia sp.	Mahonia
Bamboo sp.	Bamboo		Myrica californica	Pacific Wax Myrtle
Berberis sp.	Barberry		Nandina Domestica	Heavenly Bamboo
Buddleia sp.	Butterfly Bush		Pieris sp.	Pieris
Buxus sp.	Boxwood		Potentilla sp.	Shrubby Potentilla
Choisya ternata	Mexican Orange		Rhododendron sp.	Rhodies – not azaleas
Cotinus coggygria	Smoke Bush		Ribes sp.	Currants
Daphne sp.	Daphne		Sarcococca sp.	Sarcococca
Fatsia japonica	Fatsia		Wisteria sp.	Wisteria

Ground Covers

Ajuga sp.	Ajuga		Lithodora diffusa	Lithodora
Arcostaphylos	Kinnikinnik		Sagina sp.	Irish Moss
Fragaria sp.	Fragaria		Thymus sp.	Thyme
Hedera helix	Ivy		Veronica repens	Creeping Veronica
Hypericum calycinum	St. Johnswort		Vinca sp.	Vinca
Isotoma	Blue Star Creeper			

Annual Flowers

Ageratum	Ageratum		Limonium	Statice
Celosia	Celosia		Lobelia	Lobelia
Centaurea	Bachelor Button		Lobularia	Sweet Alyssum
Chrysanthemum	Marguerite Daisy		Mimulus	Mimulus
Cosmos	Cosmos		Salvia	Salvia
Eschscholzia	California Poppy		Sanvitalia	Creeping Zinnia
Felicia	Blue Marguerite		Senecio	Dusty Miller
Helichrysum	Strawflower		Verbena peruviana	Trailing Verbena

Ornamental Grasses

Acorus	Japanese Sweet Flag		Hakonechloa	Japanese Forest Grass
Briza	Quaking Grass		Helictotrichon	Blue oat Grass
Carex sp.	Sedges		Imperata	Japanese Blood Grass
Cortaderia	Pampas Grass		Juncus	Common Rush
Deschampsia	Tufted Hair Grass		Miscanthus sp.	Maiden Grass
Erianthus	Ravenna Grass		Pennisetum	Fountain Grass
Festuca ovina glauca	Blue Fescue			

Perennials & Bulbs

Acanthus mollis	Bears Breeches		Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal Flower
Achillea sp.	Yarrow		Lupinus sp.	Lupine
Agapanthus sp.	Lily of the Nile		Monarda sp.	Bee Balm
Anemone sp.	Anemone		Muscari	Grape Hyacinth
Artemesia sp.	Wormwood		Mysotis sp.	Forget-me-not
Cerastium tomentosum	Snow in Summer		Narcissus	Daffodil
Crocus sp.	Crocus		Nepeta sp.	Cat Mint
Dicentra sp.	Bleeding Hearts		Oxalis sp.	Sorel
Digitalis sp.	Foxglove		Papaver Orientale	Oriental Poppy
Epimedium sp.	Epimedium		Raoulia austalis	Raoulia
Euphorbia sp.	Spurges		Salvia sp.	Salvia
Fritillaria imperialis	Crown Imperial		Santolina sp.	Santolina
Galium odoratum	Sweet Woodruff		Scabiosa sp.	Scabiosa
Gunnera sp.	Gunnera		Scilla sp.	Scilla
Helleborus sp.	Christmas Rose		Silene sp.	Silene
Hemerocallis sp.	Daylily		Sisyrinchium sp.	Sisyrinchium
Iris sp.	Iris		Strachys sp.	Lamb's Ear
Kniphofia sp.	Red Hot Poker		Tradescantia sp.	Tradescantia
Lavandula sp.	Lavender		Trillium	Trillium
Liriope sp.	Lilyturf		Zantedeschia	Calla