

Deer & Rabbit Resistant Annuals

A guide to plants less likely to be browsed by deer and rabbits



Deer Resistant Annuals

No plant is deer proof. Deer will eat anything to survive. However, these annuals are *usually* avoided by deer:

Allium	Daisy, Dalberg	Lavender	Snapdragon
Argeratum	Daisy, Golden Marguerite	Nicotiana	Statice
Artemisia	Daisy, Feverfew	Marigolds	Sweet Allysum
Begonia	Datura	Osteospermum	Thyme
California Poppy	Garlic	Rudbeckia (<i>occasionally bothered</i>)	Verbena
Cleome	Geranium, Scented	Salvia/Sage	Vinca-Annual Periwinkle
Dusty Miller	Herbs	Santolina	Zinnia (<i>occasionally bothered</i>)
Daffodils	Lantana		

Gardening Around Deer

Deer use their sense of smell, rather than sight, to find food. Outline your garden with strong-smelling plants and herbs like thyme, or plant strong-smelling plants near plants with milder scents, like yarrow next to daylilies.

If you're unsure if a deer will eat a particular plant, buy one and place it (still in its pot) in an area deer frequent in your garden. If they eat it, you can pass the plant along to someone with less deer traffic, and if they don't, buy two more!

If deer are eating only the blooms on certain plants and leaving the foliage, odor repellants can be useful. Tagawa carries several effective odor repellants like Liquid Fence, Bobbex, and Hot Pepper Spray. **Spray these just below flowers to avoid interfering with pollinators.** Alternating odor repellants with every other application can help to keep deer from adapting to their odors.

Use organic fertilizers (10-10-10 or lower). Synthetic fertilizers may cause quick, unnatural growth that is tender and tasty to deer.

In the winter, the needs and food grazing methods of deer change. If they're hungry enough in the winter, they may eat any evergreen plants within reach. Males also mark their territory by rubbing their antlers against bushes and small trees. You can try putting wire fencing around these trees and evergreens. Some of this fencing can even be left in place year-round if desired.

View following page for tips on gardening around rabbits.

Rabbit Resistant Annuals

No plant is rabbit proof. However, the following annuals are *usually* avoided by rabbits:

Ageratum	Chives	Lantana	Santolina
Angelonia	Cleome	Lavender	Sedum
Artemisia	Daffodils	Marigolds	Snapdragons
Astilbe	Dahlia	Mints	Thyme
Begonia	Dusty Miller	Oregano	Verbena
California Poppy	Garlic	Penstemon	Yarrow
Canna	Geraniums	Rosemary	Zinnia
Catmint	Helichrysum	Sage	
Catnip	Hyssop	Salvia	

Gardening Around Rabbits

During the active growing season, rabbits will munch on leafy plants, and during the winter they will eat any plant buds and even tree bark.

The most effective barrier is a 3' fence, built with wire supported every 6 feet with a pole. The wire should be 1 foot below the ground and form an L shape. Rabbits can dig and hop, but not jump. You can also line a small picket fence with the wire to improve the appearance of fencing.

Use organic fertilizers. Synthetic varieties encourage tender new growth that is very appealing to rabbits. Rabbits stress lawns, but rarely kill grass, so dead patches may be a result of other circumstances.

Move "magnet" plants like roses, vegetable plants, and tulips to areas with a fence. Magnet plants are especially appealing to rabbits.

Scent repellants like Liquid Fence and Bobbex-R, sprayed in the evening, can help repel rabbits from particularly tasty plants. Be sure to carefully read labels before applying, especially on plant material that you plan to eat.

Materials that move in the wind, like plastic owls with moving heads, scare tape, balloons, pinwheels, and windsocks, may have a mild deterrant effect on rabbits.

Before planting bulbs, you may want to soak them in repellant. Tulips are a favorite of rabbits and several other critters.

In winter, use tree wrap around the base of trees, especially younger trees. Repellants and barriers seem to have the most consistent results.