

Gardening Around Deer

A basic guide to discouraging deer from browsing your landscape



One of the biggest challenges facing some gardeners is deer browsing the plants in their landscape. Resulting damage can range from leaf eating and branch trimming to bark stripping. These challenges can arise anywhere, even urban areas, but are especially prevalent in areas near open parks or wilderness.

No plant is entirely deer proof. However, deer have a taste for particular plants over others. They especially love new and tender vegetation. If your area is frequented by deer, it's recommended that you prepare a fence or other physical barrier so you aren't forced to **refrain from planting the following:**

Aspen	Grapes	Roses
Daylilies	Hostas	Strawberries
Dogwoods	Phlox	Tulips
Fruit Trees	Pussytoes Rose	Vegetables

Other than fencing, you might consider using natural repellents that deter deer with an unpleasant taste or odor. There are many types of nontoxic repellents, including human hair, carnivore urine, blood meal, and soap. These work in the short-term and should be applied every 3-4 weeks, with increased frequency in rainy weather. Floodlights, noise devices, and even large dogs can also be effective deterrents.

There are certain plants that deer browse less commonly. Deer seem to avoid plants with prickly leaves or branches, as well as leaves with cottony texture. Location of plants is a very practical deterrant. Plant more susceptible species nearer to your home, and less tasty plants as a barrier surrounding those tastier varieties. *That said, when hungry enough, a deer will eat almost any plant.* Local weather conditions can also impact deer browsing, especially if much of the ground and other forage sources are covered with heavy snow.

Woody Plants that Deer Rarely Browse

Trees

Cedar	Hackberry	Serviceberry
Common Juniper	Hawthorne	Spruce
Douglas Fir	Oak	
Dwarf Alberta Spruce	Piñon Pine	

Shrubs

Apache Plume

Barberry

Butterfly Bush

Cinquefoil

Hyssop

Lavender

Manzanita

Red Dogwood

Spirea

Rabbit Brush

Most Grasses are rarely browsed by deer.

For additional information about plants that are less likely to be browsed by deer, click the following link or scan the QR code with your phone's camera.

Preventing Deer Damage

[CSU Extension](#)



Deer & Rabbit-Resistant Perennials



Deer & Rabbit-Resistant Annuals



Deer & Rabbit-Resistant Trees & Shrubs

