



# Plants Usually Avoided by Deer

When using this list, keep in mind that the appetite of deer for a particular plant is affected by the availability of other plants. If food is scarce, deer will eat plants that are otherwise "deer-proof". Plants are listed by type: trees, shrubs, ground covers, vines, perennials, annuals, grasses, ferns.

## Trees

Abies spp. (Firs)  
Acacia spp. (Acacia)  
Acer macrophyllum (Big leaf maple)  
Acer negundo (Box elder)  
Acer palmatum (Japanese maple)  
Aesculus californica (Buckeye, California buckeye)  
Agonis flexuosa (Peppermint tree)  
Albizia spp. (Silk tree, Mimosa, Plume acacia)  
Angophora cordifolia [A. lanceolata] (Gum myrtle)  
Araucaria spp.  
Arbutus 'Marina' (Strawberry tree)  
Arbutus menziesii (Madrone)  
Arbutus unedo (Strawberry tree)  
Brachychiton populneus (Bottle tree)  
Brahea [Erythea] armata (Mexican blue palm)  
Brahea [Erythea] edulis (Guadalupe palm)  
Callistemon spp. (Bottle brush)  
Calocedrus decurrens (Incense cedar)  
Casuarina stricta (She oak, Coast beefwood)  
Catalpa bignonioides (Common catalpa, Indian bean)  
Cedrus spp. (Cedars)  
Celtis australis (European hackberry)  
Ceratonia siliquia (Carob, St. John's bread)  
Cercis canadensis (Eastern redbud)  
Cercis occidentalis (Western redbud)  
Chamaecyparis spp. (False cypress)  
Citrus spp.  
Cordyline [Dracaena] australis (Dracaena palm)  
Corylus cornuta californica (Western or California hazelnut)  
Crataegus spp. (Hawthorns)  
Cupressus spp. (Cypress)  
Diospyros virginiana (Persimmon, American)  
Eucalyptus spp.

Ficus spp. (Figs)  
Fraxinus velutina (Arizona ash)  
Fraxinus velutina 'Modesto' (Modesto ash)  
Ginkgo biloba (Maidenhair tree)  
Gymnocladus dioica (Kentucky coffee tree)  
Heteromeles arbutifolia (Toyon, California holly)  
Ilex spp. (Holly - invasive)  
Jubaea chilensis (Syrup palm)  
Juniperus spp. (Juniper)  
Lagerstroemia indica (Crape myrtle)  
Larix decidua (European larch)  
Liquidambar styraciflua (Liquidambar, American Sweet Gum)  
Lithocarpus densiflorus (Tanbark oak)  
Lyonothamnus floribundus (Catalina ironwood)  
Maclura pomifera (Osage orange)  
Magnolia spp.  
Maytenus boaria (Mayten tree)  
Melaleuca spp.  
Melia azedarach (Chinaberry tree)  
Metrosideros excelsa (New Zealand Christmas tree)  
Olea europaea (Olive)  
Palma spp. (Palms)  
Parkinsonia aculeata (Jerusalem thorn)  
Paulownia tomentosa (Empress tree)  
Phoenix spp. (Date palms)  
Picea spp. (Spruces)  
Pinus spp. (Pines)  
Platanus racemosa (California or Western sycamore)  
Podocarpus spp.  
Prunus caroliniana (Carolina cherry laurel)  
Prunus lyonii (Catalina cherry)  
Pseudotsuga menziesii (Douglas fir)  
Quercus agrifolia (Coast live oak)  
Quercus bicolor (Swamp white oak)  
Quercus chrysolepis (Canyon live oak)  
Quercus coccinea (Scarlet oak)  
Quercus douglasii (Blue oak)  
Quercus ilex (Holly-leaf oak)

Quercus kelloggii (Black oak)  
Quercus lobata (Valley oak)  
Quercus palustris (Pin oak)  
Quercus phellos (Willow oak)  
Quercus shumardii (Shumard oak)  
Quercus suber (Cork oak)  
Quercus virginiana (Southern live oak)  
Quillaja saponaria (Soapbark tree)  
Robinia pseudoacacia (Black locust - invasive)  
Sabal spp. (Palmetto)  
Sambucus spp. (Elderberry)  
Schinus molle (California pepper tree)  
Sequoia sempervirens (Coast redwood)  
Sequoiadendron giganteum (Giant redwood)  
Tamarix spp. (Tamarisk - invasive)  
Taxus spp. (Yew)  
Thuja spp. (Arborvitae)  
Trachycarpus fortunei (Windmill palm)  
Umbellularia californica (California bay or laurel)  
Washingtonia spp. (Washington palm)

## Shrubs

Abelia spp. (Abelia)  
Actea arguta (Baneberry)  
Adenostoma fasciculatum (Chamise)  
Alyogyne huegelii (Blue hibiscus)  
Andromeda polifolia (Bog rosemary)  
Aralia spinosa (Hercules club, Angelica tree, Devil's walking stick)  
Arctostaphylos spp. (Manzanita)  
Artemisia spp.  
Baccharis pilularis (Coyote bush)  
Berberis spp. (Barberry)  
Brugmansia [Datura] spp. (Datura, Angels trumpet)  
Buddleia spp. (Butterfly bush)  
Buxus sempervirens (Box, boxwood)  
Cactaceae spp. (Cactus)  
Calliandra tweedii (Trinidad flame bush)  
Calluna vulgaris (Scotch heather)

For additional advice, call the Master Gardener Information Desk, 565-2608.

Calycanthus occidentalis (Western spice bush)  
 Caragana spp. (Peashrub)  
 Carpenteria californica (Bush anemone)  
 Ceanothus spp. (California lilac)  
 Ceratostigma griffithii  
 Ceratostigma plumbaginoides (Dwarf plumbago)  
 Cercocarpus betuloides (Mountain mahogany)  
 Cestrum elegans  
 Chaenomeles japonica (Flowering quince)  
 Chamaerops humilis (Mediterranean fan palm)  
 Choisya ternata (Mexican mock orange)  
 Cistus spp. (Rockrose)  
 Coleonema [Diosma] album (White breath of heaven)  
 Coleonema [Diosma] pulchrum (Pink breath of heaven)  
 Convolvulus cneorum (Bush morning glory)  
 Coprosma spp. (Mirror plant)  
 Corokia cotoneaster  
 Correa spp. (Australian fuchsia)  
 Cotinus coggygria (Smoke tree)  
 Cycas spp.  
 Cytisus spp. (Broom - invasive)  
 Daphne spp.  
 Dendromecon spp. (Bush poppy)  
 Dodonaea viscosa (Hop bush)  
 Elaeagnus spp.  
 Erica spp. (Heath)  
 Eriogonum spp. (Buckwheats)  
 Escallonia spp.  
 Euphorbia spp. (Spurge)  
 Fabiana imbricata (Chile heath)  
 Fatshedera lizei [correctly, x Fatshedera lizei]  
 Feijoa sellowiana (Pineapple guava)  
 Fremontodendron spp. (Flannel bush)  
 Garrya elliptica (Coast silk-tassel, Silk tassel bush)  
 Gaultheria shallon (Salal)  
 Genista lydia  
 Genista monosperma (Bridal veil broom)  
 Grevillea spp.  
 Griselinia lucida  
 Hakea suaveolens (Sweet hakia)  
 Halimium spp.  
 Hebe pinguifolia 'Pagei'  
 Helianthemum nummularium (Sunrose)  
 Hippophae rhamnoides (Sea buckthorn)  
 Hypericum spp. (invasive)  
 Iochroma cyaneum  
 Jasminum spp.

Juniperus spp. (Junipers)  
 Kerria japonica (Japanese rose)  
 Lantana spp.  
 Lavandula spp. (Lavender)  
 Lavatera spp. (Tree mallow)  
 Leonotis leonurus (Lion's tail)  
 Lepechinia spp. (Pitcher sage)  
 Leptodactylon californicum (Prickly phlox)  
 Leptospermum spp. (Tea tree)  
 Ligustrum spp. (Privet)  
 Lupinus spp. (Lupine)  
 Mahonia [Berberis] spp.  
 Melianthus major (Honey bush)  
 Michelia figo (Banana shrub)  
 Mimulus [Diplacus] spp. (Monkeyflower)  
 Myoporum spp.  
 Myrica spp.  
 Myrsine africanum (African box)  
 Myrtus communis (True myrtle)  
 Nandina domestica (Heavenly bamboo)  
 Nerium oleander (Oleander)  
 Nolina parryi  
 Osmanthus spp.  
 Paeonia suffruticosa (Tree peony)  
 Physocarpus capitatus (Pacific ninebark)  
 Pittosporum spp.  
 Plumbago auriculata (Cape plumbago)  
 Potentilla fruticosa (Shrubby cinquefoil)  
 Prunus ilicifolia (Holly leaf cherry)  
 Prunus laurocerasus (English laurel)  
 Punica granatum (Pomegranate)  
 Pyracantha spp. (Firethorn)  
 Rhododendron spp. (Rhododendrons)  
 Rhus spp. (Sumac)  
 Ribes spp. (Currant and gooseberry)  
 Rosa californica (Wild rose)  
 Rosmarinus officinalis (Rosemary)  
 Rubus calycinoides  
 Ruscus aculeatus (Butchers broom)  
 Salvia spp. (Sage)  
 Sarcococca spp. (Sweet box)  
 Senecio spp. (invasive)  
 Senna [Cassia] spp. (Senna)  
 Solanum spp. (Nightshade)  
 Symphoricarpos spp. (Snowberry)  
 Syringa spp. (Lilac)  
 Syzygium paniculatum (Bush cherry, Australian brush cherry)  
 Taxus spp. (Yew)  
 Teucrium fruticans (Bush germander)  
 Thuja spp. (Arborvitae)  
 Tibouchina urvilleana (Princess flower)  
 Trichostema lanatum (Woolly blue curls)  
 Vaccinium ovatum (California huckleberry)  
 Viburnum burkwoodii

Viburnum davidii  
 Viburnum suspensum (Sandankwa viburnum)  
 Viburnum tinus (Laurustinus)  
 Westringia rosmariniformis  
 Xylosma congestum (Xylosma)  
 Yucca spp. (Spanish bayonet)

### Vines

Asparagus falcatus (Sickle-thorn asparagus)  
 Bougainvillea spp.  
 Cissus antarctica (Kangaroo ivy)  
 Cissus rhombifolia (Grape ivy)  
 Clianthus puniceus (Parrot beak)  
 Disticus buccinatoria [Phaedranthus buccinatorius] (Blood red trumpet vine)  
 Echinocystis lobata (Wild cucumber)  
 Gelsemium sempervirens (Carolina jessamine)  
 Hardenbergia violacea (Lilac vine)  
 Hibbertia scandens (Guinea gold vine)  
 Jasminum spp.  
 Marah fabaceus (Wild cucumber)  
 Muehlenbeckia complexa (Maidenhair vine)  
 Pandorea pandorana (Wonga wonga vine)  
 Polygonum aubertii (Silver lace vine)  
 Ricinus communis (Castor bean - invasive)  
 Solanum spp. (Nightshade)  
 Sollya heterophylla (Australian bluebell creeper)  
 Tecomaria capensis (Cape honeysuckle)  
 Wisteria spp.

### Perennials

(Succulents)  
 (Herbs)  
 Acanthus mollis (Bear's breech)  
 Achillea spp. (Yarrow)  
 Aconitum spp. (Monkshood)  
 Agave spp. (Century plant)  
 Ajuga spp. (Bugle weed)  
 Alcea rosea (Hollyhock)  
 Aloe vera (Burn plant)  
 Anemone hybrida [A. japonica] (Japanese anemone)  
 Aquilegia spp. (Columbines)  
 Arabis spp. (Rock cress)  
 Arctotis (African daisy)  
 Armeria spp. (Thrift)  
 Arum spp.  
 Asarum caudatum (Wild ginger)  
 Aspidistra elatior (Cast iron plant)  
 Aster spp.  
 Asteriscus maritimus

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Astilbe spp. (Meadow sweet)  
 Aubrieta deltooides (Common aubrieta)  
 Begonia, tuberous (Tuberous begonia)  
 Bergenia crassifolia (Winter blooming Bergenia)  
 Brachycome spp. (Swan River daisy)  
 Caccinium ovatum  
 Campanula spp. (Bellflower)  
 Centaurea spp. (invasive)  
 Centranthus ruber (Red valerian)  
 Cerastium tomentosum (Snow-in-summer)  
 Ceratostigma willmottianum (Chinese plumbago)  
 Chamaemelum nobile (Chamomile)  
 Chives  
 Chrysanthemum spp.  
 Clivia miniata (Kaffir lily)  
 Coreopsis spp. (Coreopsis)  
 Coronilla glauca  
 Coronilla varia (Crown vetch)  
 Cynara scolymus (Artichoke)  
 Dahlia spp.  
 Datura stramonium (Jimson weed)  
 Delphinium (Larkspur)  
 Diascia spp. (Twinspur)  
 Dicentra formosa (Western bleeding heart)  
 Dicentra spectabilis (Common bleeding heart)  
 Dierama pulcherrimum  
 Dietes vegeta (Fortnight lily)  
 Digitalis spp. (Foxglove)  
 Duchesnea indica (Indian mock strawberry)  
 Dymondia margaretae  
 Echinacea purpurea (Purple coneflower)  
 Epilobium [Zauschneria] spp. (California fuchsia)  
 Epimedium spp.  
 Equisetum spp. (Horsetail - invasive)  
 Erigeron spp. (Fleabane)  
 Eriodictyon californicum (Yerba santa)  
 Eriogonum spp. (Buckwheats)  
 Eriophyllum stoechadifolium (Lizard tail)  
 Erodium reichardii [E. chamaedryoides]  
 Erysimum 'Bowles Mauve' (Wallflower)  
 Erysimum cheiri [Cheiranthus cheiri] (Wallflower)  
 Erysimum kotschyianum (Blister cress)  
 Eschscholzia californica (California poppy)  
 Euryops pectinatus  
 Felicia spp. (Blue marguerite)  
 Filipendula spp.  
 Fragaria chiloensis (Beach strawberry, Wild strawberry)  
 Gaillardia spp. (Blanket flower)  
 Galium odoratum (Sweet woodruff)  
 Gazania spp.  
 Geranium spp. (Cranesbill)  
 Gerbera spp. (African daisy)  
 Grindelia stricta [G. arenicola] (Pacific grindelia, Gumplant)  
 Gunnera spp.  
 Gypsophila cerastioides  
 Helianthus spp. (Sunflower)  
 Helleborus spp. (Christmas rose)  
 Hemerocallis spp. (Daylily)  
 Incarvillea spp. (Gloxinia)  
 Iris spp. (Iris)  
 Kniphofia spp.  
 Lamium maculatum (Dead nettle)  
 Laurentia [Isotoma] fluviatilis (Blue star creeper)  
 Ligularia tussilaginea  
 Limonium perezii (Sea lavender)  
 Limonium psidoclada  
 Linum spp. (Flax)  
 Liriope spp. (Lily turf)  
 Lithodora diffusa  
 Lobelia spp.  
 Lotus purshianus (Spanish clover)  
 Lotus scoparius (Deer weed)  
 Lupinus spp. (Lupine)  
 Lychnis coronaria (Rose campion, Crown pink, r Dusty miller)  
 Lysimachia nummularia (Creeping jenny)  
 Malacothamnus fasciculatus [M. arcuatus] (Mesa bush mallow)  
 Mentha spp. (Mint)  
 Mesembryanthemum crystallinum (Ice plant)  
 Mimulus [Diplacus] spp. (Monkey flower)  
 Moluccella laevis (Bells of Ireland)  
 Monarda spp. (Bee balm, Oswego tea)  
 Monardella macrantha (Scarlet monardella)  
 Myoporum parvifolium (Prostrate Myoporum)  
 Myosotis spp. (Forget-me-not)  
 Nemesia  
 Nepeta spp. (Catmint or catnip)  
 Nierembergia spp. (Cup flower)  
 Omphalodes cappadocica  
 Ophiopogon japonicus (Lily turf)  
 Origanum  
 Origanum dictamnus (Dittany of Crete)  
 Osteospermum spp. (African daisy)  
 Oxalis spp.  
 Pachysandra terminalis (Japanese spurge)  
 Papaver orientale (Oriental poppy)  
 Penstemon spp. (Penstemon, Beard tongue)  
 Perovskia (Russan sage)  
 Phlomis fruticosa (Jerusalem sage)  
 Phlox subulata (Moss pink)  
 Phormium tenax (New Zealand flax)  
 Phygelius x capensis  
 Phygelius x rectus  
 Plantago subnuda [P. hirtella] (Plantain)  
 Polygonatum spp. (Solomon's seal)  
 Polygonum capitatum (Pink knotweed)  
 Potentilla verna (Cinquefoil)  
 Pulmonaria spp. (Lungwort)  
 Raoulia australis  
 Rheum spp. (Rhubarb)  
 Romneya coulteri (Matilija poppy)  
 Rudbeckia spp. (Gloriosa daisy, Black Eyed Susan)  
 Ruta graveolens (Rue)  
 Salvia spp. (Sages)  
 Sanicula crassicaulis (Pacific snakeroot)  
 Santolina spp.  
 Saxifraga spp. (Saxifrage)  
 Scabiosa spp. (Pincushion flower)  
 Scaevola spp.  
 Scaevola 'Mauve Clusters'  
 Schizostylis coccinea (Crimson flag, Kaffir lily)  
 Sedum spathulifolium (Common stonecrop)  
 Sidalcea spp. (Checkerbloom)  
 Silene acaulis (Cushion pink, Moss campion)  
 Silene vulgaris maritima  
 Sisyrinchium spp. (Blue-eyed grass)  
 Soleirolia soleirolii (Baby's tears)  
 Solidago spp. (Goldenrod)  
 Stachys byzantina (Lamb's ears)  
 Stokesia laevis (Stoke's aster)  
 Strelitzia reginae (Bird of paradise)  
 Tanacetum vulgare (Tansy)  
 Tellima grandiflora (Fringe cups)  
 Thymus spp. (Thyme)  
 Tolmiea menziesii (Piggyback plant)  
 Tradescantia spp. (Spiderwort, Wandering Jew)  
 Trillium spp. (Wake-robin)  
 Tulbaghia violacea (Society garlic)  
 Valeriana officinalis (Heliotrope)  
 Vancouveria hexandra (Redwood ivy)  
 Vancouveria planipetala (Inside-out flower)  
 Verbena spp.  
 Veronica (Speedwell)  
 Viola spp. (Violets)  
 Wyethia spp. (Mule ears)  
 Zantedeschia spp. (Calla lily)

### Annuals

Ageratum houstonianum (Floss flower)

For additional advice, call the Master Gardener Information Desk, 565-2608.

Alyssum spp.  
 Arctotis spp. (African daisy)  
 Calendula officinalis (Pot marigold)  
 Campanula spp. (Bellflower)  
 Celosia spp. (Cockscomb)  
 Centaurea spp.  
 Clarkia spp.  
 Collinsia spp. (Chinese houses)  
 Cymbalaria muralis (Kenilworth ivy)  
 Delphinium (Larkspur)  
 Digitalis spp. (Foxglove)  
 Eriogonum spp. (Buckwheats)  
 Gnaphalium californicum (Green everlasting)  
 Helianthus spp. (Sunflower)  
 Helichrysum spp. (Strawflowers)  
 Limonium sinuatum (Statice, Sea lavender)  
 Linanthus grandiflorus (Mountain phlox)  
 Linaria spp. (Toadflax)  
 Linum spp. (Flax)  
 Lobelia spp.  
 Lupinus spp. (Lupine)  
 Mimulus [Diplacus] spp. (Monkey flower)  
 Mirabilis jalapa (Four o'clock)  
 Myosotis spp. (Forget-me-not)  
 Nemesia  
 Nemophila menziesii (Baby-blue-eyes)  
 Nicotiana spp. (Flowering tobacco)  
 Nigella damascena (Love-in-a-mist)  
 Papaver nudicaule (Iceland poppy)  
 Papaver rhoeas (Shirley poppy, Flanders field poppy)  
 Plantago erecta (California plantain)  
 Salvia spp. (Sages)  
 Scabiosa spp. (Pincushion flower)  
 Senecio spp. (invasive)  
 Tagetes spp. (Marigold)  
 Marigold)  
 Tropaeolum majus (Nasturtium)  
 Zinnia spp.

### **Bulbs, Tubers, Geophytes**

Allium spp.  
 Alstroemeria ligu hybrids (Peruvian lily)  
 Amaryllis belladonna (Naked lady)  
 Anemone blanda  
 Brodiaea spp.  
 Convallaria majalis (Lily-of-the-valley)  
 Crinum spp.  
 Crocosmia spp.  
 Crocosmia crocosmiiflora (Montbretia)  
 Crocus spp.  
 Cyclamen spp. (Cyclamen)  
 Freesia spp.

Iris spp. (Iris)  
 Ixia maculata (African corn lily)  
 Leucojum spp. (Snowflake)  
 Muscari spp. (Grape hyacinth)  
 Narcissus spp. (Daffodil)  
 Scilla spp. (Squill)  
 Sparaxis tricolor (Harlequin flower)  
 Sternbergia lutea (Yellow fall crocus)  
 Tulipa spp. (Tulip)  
 Vallota speciosa (Scarborough lily)  
 Zigadenus fremontii (Fremont's star lily)

### **Grasses and Grass-like Plants**

(Mowed grass lawn)  
 (Bamboos)  
 Carex spp. (Sedge)  
 Cyperus spp. (Sedge)  
 Deschampsia caespitosa (Tufted hairgrass)  
 Elymus glaucus (Blue wild rye)  
 Festuca ovina glauca (Blue fescue)  
 Helictotrichon sempervirens (Blue oat grass)  
 Juncus patens  
 Koeleria cristata (Prairie junegrass)  
 Melica imperfecta (Melic grass)  
 Miscanthus sinensis (Eulalia grass)  
 Muhlenbergia rigens (Deer or basket grass)  
 Nassella [Stipa] pulchra  
 Pennisetum alopecuroides (Fountain grass)  
 Pennisetum setaceum (Fountain grass - invasive)

### **Ferns and Fern Relatives**

(Ferns, except Pellaea)  
 Nephrolepis cordifolia (Southern sword fern)  
 Pellaea andromedaefolia (Coffee fern)  
 Pityrogramma triangularis (Goldenback fern, California gold fern)  
 Polystichum munitum (Western sword fern)  
 Woodwardia fimbriata (Giant chain fern)

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