

# Resistance of Annuals, Biennials & Bulbs to Deer Damage



The following list of annuals, biennials & bulbs is the result of a survey completed by Master Gardeners from the Cornell Cooperative Extension – Westchester County. Using information collected in their own gardens and neighborhoods, they listed plants under the headings “Plants Rarely or Never Eaten by Deer”, “Plants Occasionally Eaten by Deer”, and “Plants Often or Always Eaten by Deer”. **Deer damage depends on many factors, including the size of the local deer population, the territory they have to roam, other available food sources, and the time of year.** Therefore, a plant that is never grazed in one garden may be slightly or even heavily damaged in another garden. **This fact sheet can only be used by the gardener as a general guideline until the characteristics of the local deer population are known.**

## **PLANTS RARELY OR NEVER EATEN BY DEER**

### **Annuals**

Ageratum - *Ageratum houstonianum*  
Snapdragon - *Antirrhinum majus*  
Angel's Trumpet - *Brugmansia* sp. (*Datura*)  
Pot Marigold - *Calendula* sp.  
Annual Vinca - *Catharanthus rosea*  
Dusty Miller - *Centaurea cineraria*  
Spider Flower - *Cleome* sp.  
Larkspur - *Consolida ambigua*  
Snow-on-the-Mountain - *Euphorbia marginata*  
Strawflower - *Helichrysum*  
Heliotrope - *Heliotropium arborescens*  
Sweet Alyssum - *Lobularia maritima*  
False Camomile - *Matricaria* sp.  
Forget-Me-Not - *Myosotis sylvatica*  
Flowering Tobacco - *Nicotiana* sp.  
Poppy - *Papaver* sp.  
Anise - *Pimpinella anisum*  
Rosemary - *Rosmarinus officinalis*

### **Biennial**

Common Foxglove - *Digitalis purpurea*

### **Bulbs**

Ornamental Onion - *Allium* sp.  
Autumn Crocus - *Colchicum* sp.  
Bluebell - *Endymion* sp.  
Winter Aconite - *Eranthus hyemalis*  
Crown Imperial, Fritilia - *Fritilaria imperialis*  
Snowdrops - *Galanthus nivalis*  
Daffodil - *Narcissus* sp.  
Siberian Squill - *Scilla siberica*

## **PLANTS OCCASIONALLY EATEN BY DEER**

### **Annuals**

Dill - *Anethum graveolens*  
Borage - *Borage officinalis*  
Cock's Comb - *Celosia* sp.  
Bachelor's Buttons - *Centaurea cyanus*  
Wallflower - *Cheiranthus* sp.  
California Poppy - *Eschscholzia californica*  
Candytuft - *Iberis umbellata*  
Lantana - *Lantana* sp.  
Lobelia - *Lobelia* sp.  
Stocks - *Matthiola* sp.  
Basil - *Ocimum basilicum*  
Shiso - *Perilla frutescens*  
Parsley - *Petroselinum crispum*  
Salvia - *Salvia*  
French Marigold - *Tagetes patula*  
Nasturtium - *Tropaeolum majus*  
Verbena - *Verbena x hybrida*  
Zinnia - *Zinnia* sp.

### **Biennials**

William Dianthus - *barbatus*  
Money Plant - *Lunaria annua*  
Forget-Me-Not - *Myosotis alpestris*

### **Bulbs**

Camassia - *Camassia leichtlini*  
Canna Lily - *Canna* sp.  
Elephant Ear - *Colocasia esculenta*  
Crocus - *Crocus* sp.  
Gladiolus - *Gladiolus* sp.  
Glory Lily - *Gloriosa superba*  
Hyacinth - *Hyacinthus* sp.  
Grape Hyacinth - *Muscari* sp.  
Wood Sorrel - *Oxalis* sp.  
Calla Lily - *Zantedeschia* sp.

## **PLANTS OFTEN EATEN BY DEER**

### **Annuals**

Wax Begonia - Begonia semperflorens  
Coleus - Coleus sp.  
Cosmos - Cosmos sp.  
Dahlia - Dahlia sp.  
Gerbera Daisy - Gerbera jamesonii  
Sunflower - Helianthus sp.  
Balsam, Touch-Me-Not - Impatiens balsamina  
Impatiens - Impatiens walleriana  
Morning Glory - Ipomea sp.  
Geranium - Pelargonium sp.  
Garden Petunia - Petunia sp.  
Pansy - Viola sp

### **Biennials**

Canterbury Bells - Campanula medium

### **Bulbs**

Caladium - Caladium sp.  
Garden Lily - Liliium sp.  
Tulip - Tulip sp.