

Resistance of Perennials & Grasses to Deer Damage



The following list of perennials & grasses 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

Perennials

Monkshood - *Aconitum* sp.
Anise Hyssop - *Agastache* sp.
Ornamental Onion - *Allium* sp.
Rock-Cress - *Arabis caucasica*
Jack-in-the-pulpit - *Arisaema triphylum*
Horseradish - *Armoracia rusticana*
Tarragon - *Artemisia dracunculoides*
Silver Mound - *Artemisia* sp.
Wild Ginger - *Asarum canadense*
European Ginger - *Asarum europaeum*
Purple Rock-Cress - *Aubretia deltoidea*
Basket of Gold - *Aurinia saxatilis*
False Indigo - *Baptisia australis*
Siberian Bugloss - *Brunneria macrophylla* (Brunnera)
Cactus - *Cactaceae* sp.
Threadleaf Coreopsis - *Coreopsis verticillata*
Corydalis - *Corydalis* sp.
Fringed Bleeding Heart - *Dicentra eximia*
Bleeding Heart - *Dicentra spectabilis*
Small Globe Thistle - *Echinops ritro*
Spurge - *Euphorbia* sp. (except 'Chameleon')
Lenten or Christmas Rose - *Helleborus* sp.
Dame's Rocket - *Hesperis matronalis*
Hyssop - *Hyssopus officinalis*
Iris - *Iris* sp. (may eat buds)
Lavendar - *Lavandula* sp.
Bigleaf Goldenray - *Ligularia dentata*
Rocket Ligularia - *Ligularia 'The Rocket'*
Statice - *Limonium latifolium*
Butter & Eggs - *Linaria vulgaris*
Rose Campion - *Lychnis coronaria*
Marjoram - *Majorana*

Horehound - *Marrubium vulgare*
Lemon Balm - *Melissa officinalis*
Mint - *Mentha* sp.
Forget-Me-Not - *Myosotis* sp.
Catmint - *Nepeta* sp.
Oregano - *Oreganum* sp.
Peony - *Paeonia* sp. (may eat buds)
Russian Sage - *Perovskia atriplicifolia*
Greek Jerusalem Sage - *Phlomis* sp.
May Apple - *Podophyllum*
Potentilla, Cinquefoil - *Potentilla* sp.
Lungwort - *Pulmonaria* sp.
Buttercup - *Ranunculus* sp.
Rodgers Flower - *Rodgersia* sp.
Rue - *Ruta* sp.
Garden Sage - *Salvia officinalis*
Lavender-Cotton - *Santolina chamaecyparissus*
Lamb's Ear - *Stachys byzantina*
Common Tansy - *Tanacetum vulgare*
Germander - *Teucrium Chamaedrys*
Meadow Rue - *Thalictrum* sp.
Thyme - *Thymus* sp.

Ferns

Japanese Painted Fern - *Athyrium goeringianum* (nipponicum)
Holly Fern - *Cyrtomium falcatum*
Hayscented Fern - *Dennstaedtia punctilobula*
Wood Fern - *Dryopteris marginalis*
Ostrich Fern - *Matteuccia struthiopteris*
Sensitive Fern - *Onoclea sensibilis*
Cinnamon Fern - *Osmunda cinnamomea*
Royal Fern - *Osmunda regalis*
Christmas Fern - *Polystichum arcostichoides*
New York Fern - *Thelypteris noveboracensis*

PLANTS RARELY OR NEVER EATEN BY DEER

Groundcover

Bishop's Weed - *Aegopodium podagaria*
Bugleweed - *Ajuga reptans*
Bearberry - *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
Lily of the Valley - *Convallaria majalis*
Barrenwort - *Epimedium* sp.
Sweet Woodruff - *Galium odoratum* (*Asperula odorata*)
Spotted Deadnettle - *Lamium* sp.
Allegheny Spurge - *Pachysandra procumbens*
Pachysandra - *Pachysandra terminalis*

Ornamental Grasses

Japanese Sweet Flag - *Acorus* sp.
Big Bluestem - *Andropogon* sp.
Variegated Oat Grass - *Arrhenatherum elatius*
Giant Reed - *Arundo donax*
Feather Reed Grass - *Calamagrostis* sp.
Japanese Sedge - *Carex* sp.
Northern Sea Oats - *Chasmanthium latifolium*
Pampus Grass - *Cortaderia selloana*
Weeping Love Grass - *Eragrostus curvula*
Grass - *Erianthus ravennae*
Clump Bamboo - *Fargesia* sp.
Blue Fescue - *Festuca glauca*
Hakonechloa - *Hakonechloa macra*
Blue Oat Grass - *Helictotrichon sempervirens*
Japanese Blood Grass - *Imperata cylindrica*
Hard Rush - *Juncus Effusus*
Large Blue June Grass - *Koeleria glauca*
Lyme Grass - *Leymus arenarius glaucous*
Giant Japanese Silver Grass - *Miscanthus floridulus*
Japanese Silver Grass - *Miscanthus sinensis*
Purple Moor Grass - *Molinia caerulea*
Variegated Purple Moor Grass - *Molinia caerulea 'Variegata'*
Switch Grass - *Panicum virgatum*
Fountain Grass - *Pennisetum alopecuroides*
Oriental Fountain Grass - *Pennisetum orientale*
Golden Bamboo - *Phyllostachys aurea*
Little Bluestem - *Schizachyrium scoparium*
Indian Grass - *Sorghastrum nutans*

PLANTS OCCASIONALLY EATEN BY DEER

Perennials

Yarrow - *Achillea filipendulina*
Common Yarrow - *Achillea millefolium*
African Lily - *Agapanthus* sp.
Ladys' Mantle - *Alchemilla* sp.
Bugloss - *Anchusa* sp.
Japanese Anemone - *Anemone x hybrida*
Rue Anemone - *Anemone thalictroides*
Columbine - *Aquilegia* sp.
Sea Thrift - *Armeria maritima*
Swamp Milkweed - *Asclepias incarnata*
Butterfly Weed - *Asclepias tuberosa*
Asparagus - *Asparagus officinalis*
Aster - *Aster* sp.
Astilbe - *Astilbe* sp.
Heartleaf Bergenia - *Bergenia* sp.

White Boltonia - *Boltonia asteroides*
Snow-in-Summer - *Cerastium*
Feverfew - *Chrysanthemum parthenium*
Snakeroot, Bugbane - *Cimicifuga* sp.
Lance Coreopsis - *Coreopsis lanceolata*
Crocsmia - *Crocsmia* sp.
Cyclamen - *Cyclamen* sp.
Delphinium - *Delphinium* sp.
Carnation, Pinks - *Dianthus* sp.
Gas Plant - *Dictamnus alba*
Yellow Foxglove - *Digitalis grandiflora*
Purple Coneflower - *Echinacea purpurea*
Trout Lily - *Erythronium*
Mist Flower - *Eupatorium coelestinum*
White Snakeroot - *Eupatorium rugosum*
Hardy Geranium - *Geranium macrorrhizum*
Baby's Breath - *Gypsophila* sp.
Sneezeweed - *Helenium autumnale*
Coralbells - *Heuchera* sp.
St. John's Wort - *Hypericum calycinum*
Candytuft - *Iberis sempervirens*
Yellow Wax-Bells - *Kirengeshoma palmata*
Red-Hot Poker - *Kniphofia tritoma*
Blazing Star - *Liatris* sp.
Cardinal Flower - *Lobelia* sp.
Lupine - *Lupinus* sp.
Maltese Cross - *Lychnis chalconica*
Plume Poppy - *Macleaya cordata*
Virginia Bluebells - *Mertensia virginica*
Beebalm - *Monarda didyma*
Oriental Poppy - *Papaver orientale*
Patrinia - *Patrinia scabiosifolia*
Obedient Plant - *Physostegia* sp.
Jacob's Ladder - *Polemonium caeruleum*
Primrose - *Primula* sp.
Rhubarb - *Rheum rhabarbarum*
Black-Eyed Susan - *Rudbeckia* sp.
Meadow Sage - *Salvia nemorosa*
Soapwort - *Saponaria* sp.
Savory - *Satureja montana*
Pincushin Flower - *Scabiosa caucasica*
Hens and Chickens - *Sempervivum* sp.
Goldenrod - *Solidago* sp.
Stokes' Aster - *Stokesia laevis*
Skunk Cabbage - *Symplocarpos foetidus*
Foam Flower - *Tiarella cordifolia*
Spiderwort - *Tradescantia* sp.
Toad Lily - *Tricyrtis hirta*
Trillium - *Trillium* sp.
Mullein - *Verbascum* sp.
Speedwell - *Veronica* sp.
Violets - *Viola* sp.

Groundcover

Plumbago - *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*
Creeping Wintergreen - *Gaultheria procumbens*
Lilyturf - *Liriope* sp.
Large Periwinkle - *Vinca major*
Periwinkle - *Vinca minor*

PLANTS OCCASIONALLY EATEN BY DEER

Ornamental Grasses

Bamboo - Bambusa sp.
Drooping Sedge - Carex pendula
Bottlebrush Grass - Hystrix patula
Dwarf Mondo Grass - Ophiopogon japonicus
Ribbon Grass - Phalaris arundinacea
Sedge - Scirpus lacustris

PLANTS OFTEN EATEN BY DEER

Perennials

Hollyhock - Alcea sp.
Goat's Beard - Aruncus sp.
Hardy Begonia - Begonia grandis
English Daisy - Bellis perennis
Bellflower - Campanula glomerata
Mountain Bluet - Centaurea montana
Pink Turtlehead - Chelone sp.
Fall Mums - Chrysanthemum
Shasta Daisy - Chrysanthemum superbum
Fleabane - Erigeron sp.
Sea-Holly - Eryngium sp.
Spurge - Euphorbia dulcis 'Chameleon'
Meadowsweet - Filipendula sp.
Strawberry - Fragaria sp.
Blanket Flower - Gaillardia sp.

Hardy Geranium - Geranium clarkei
Hardy Geranium - Geranium endressii
Hardy Geranium - Geranium sanguineum
Hardy Geranium - Geranium x cantabrigiense
Geum, Avens - Geum sp.
Daylily - Hemerocallis sp.
Rose Mallow - Hibiscus moscheutos
Hosta - Hosta sp.
Shasta Daisy - Leucanthemum maximum
Gooseneck Loosestrife - Lysimachia clethroides
Purple Loosestrife - Lythrum sp.
Sundrops - Oenothera sp.
Candy Lily - Pardancanda x norrisii
Penstemon - Penstemon sp.
Phlox - Phlox sp.
Balloon Flower - Platycodon grandiflorus
Solomon's Seal - Polygonatum sp.
Showy Sedum - Sedum spectabile
Checkermallow - Sidalcea malviflora
Comfrey - Symphytum officinale
Globeflower - Trollius sp.

Goundcover

Wintercreeper - Euonymus fortunei
English Ivy - Hedera helix