



# Resistance of Shrubs & Vines to Deer Damage



The following list of shrubs & vines 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

Devil's Walking Stick - *Aralia spinosa*  
Barberry - *Berberis* sp.  
Butterfly Bush - *Buddleia* sp.  
Common Boxwood - *Buxus sempervirens*  
Heather - *Calliuna* sp.  
Blue Mist Shrub - *Caryopteris clandonensis*  
Japanese Plum Yew - *Cephalotaxus harringtonia*  
Broom - *Cytisus* sp.  
Daphne - *Daphne* sp.  
Russian Olive - *Elaeagnus angustifolia*  
Heath - *Erica* sp.  
John T. Morris Holly - *Ilex* x 'John T. Morris'  
Lydia Morris Holly - *Ilex* x 'Lydia Morris'  
Prince of Wales Juniper - *Juniperus horizontalis* 'Prince of Wales'  
Moonglow Juniper - *Juniperus scopulorum* 'Moonglow'  
Drooping Leucothoe - *Leucothoe fontanesiana*  
Oregon Grape Holly - *Mahonia aquifolium*  
Leatherleaf Mahonia - *Mahonia bealei*  
Russian Cypress - *Microbiota decussata*  
Bayberry - *Myrica pensylvanica*  
Mountain Pieris - *Pieris floribunda*  
Japanese Pieris, Andromeda - *Pieris japonica*  
Bush Cinquefoil - *Potentilla fruticosa*  
Fragrant Sumac - *Rhus aromatica*  
Red Elderberry - *Sambucus racemosa*  
Sweet Box - *Sarcococca hookeriana*  
Japanese Skimmia - *Skimmia japonica*  
Arrowwood Viburnum - *Viburnum dentatum*

## VINES

Bittersweet - *Celastrus scandens*  
Winter Jasmine - *Jasminum nudiflorum*  
Wisteria - *Wisteria floribunda*

## PLANTS OCCASIONALLY EATEN BY DEER

Glossy Abelia - *Abelia* sp.  
Dwarf Balsam Fir - *Abies balsamea*  
Bog Rosemary - *Andromeda polifolia*  
Red Chokeberry - *Aronia arbutifolia*  
Goldust Plant - *Aucuba japonica*  
Beautyberry - *Callicarpa* sp.  
Common Sweetshrub - *Calycanthus floridus*  
California Sweetshrub - *Calycanthus occidentalis*  
Japanese Flowering Quince - *Chaenomeles japonica*  
Harlequin Glorybower - *Clerodendrum fargesii*  
Sweet Pepperbush - *Clethra* sp.  
Red Twigged Dogwood - *Cornus alba*  
Red Osier Dogwood - *Cornus sericea*  
Hazelnut - *Corylus* sp.  
Smokebush - *Cotinus coggygria*  
Cranberry Cotoneaster - *Cotoneaster apiculatus*  
Pyrenees Cotoneaster - *Cotoneaster congestus*  
Bearberry Cotoneaster - *Cotoneaster dammeri*  
Rockspray Cotoneaster - *Cotoneaster horizontalis*  
Cotoneaster - *Cotoneaster salicifolius*  
Deutzia - *Deutzia* sp.  
Autumn Olive - *Elaeagnus umbellatus*  
Redvein Enkianthus - *Enkianthus campanulatus*  
Forsythia - *Forsythia* x *intermedia*  
Fothergillia - *Fothergilla* sp.  
Carolina Silverbell - *Halesia carolina*  
Common Witchhazel - *Hamamelis virginiana*  
Rose of Sharon - *Hibiscus syriacus*  
Sea Buckthorn - *Hippophae rhamnoides*  
St. John's Wort - *Hypericum prolificum*  
English Holly - *Ilex aquifolium*  
Chinese Holly - *Ilex cornuta*  
Inkberry - *Ilex glabra*  
Winterberry Holly - *Ilex verticillata*  
Virginia Sweetspire - *Itea virginica*

## **PLANTS OCCASIONALLY EATEN BY DEER**

Armstrong Juniper - Juniperus chinensis 'Armstrongii'  
Chinese Juniper - Juniperus chinensis cv.  
Pfitzer Juniper - Juniperus chinensis 'Pfitzerana'  
Creeping Juniper - Juniperus horizontalis cv.  
Youngstown Andorra Juniper - Juniperus horizontalis 'Youngstown'  
Japanese Garden Juniper - Juniperus procumbens 'Nana'  
Savin/Tam Juniper - Juniperus sabin cv.  
Mountain Juniper - Juniperus scopulorum cv.  
Blue Star Juniper - Juniperus squamata 'Blue Star'  
Singleseed Juniper - Juniperus squamata cv.  
Japanese Kerria - Kerria japonica  
Beautybush - Kolkwitzia amabilis  
Crape Myrtle - Lagerstroemia indica  
Coast Leucothoe - Leucothoe axillaris  
Privet - Ligustrum sp.  
Spicebush - Lindera benzoin  
Saucer Magnolia - Magnolia x soulangiana  
Holly Osmanthus - Osmanthus heterophyllus  
Sweet Mock Orange - Philadelphus coronarius  
Mugo Pine - Pinus mugo  
Cherry Laurel - Prunus laurocerasus  
Firethorn - Pyracantha coccinea  
Buckthorn - Rhamnus sp.  
Currant - Ribes sp.  
Brambles - Rubus sp.  
Blueberry Elder, Sweet Elder - Sambucus canadensis  
Japanese Spirea - Spiraea japonica  
Bridalwreath Spirea - Spiraea prunifolia  
Anthony Waterer Spirea - Spiraea x bumalda  
Snowberry - Symphoricarpos albus  
Coralberry - Symphoricarpos x chenaultii  
Japanese Tree Lilac - Syringa reticulata  
Common Lilac - Syringa vulgaris  
Koreanspice Viburnum - Viburnum carlesii  
Cranberry Bush - Viburnum opulus  
Doublefile Viburnum - Viburnum plicatum tomentosum  
Blackhaw Viburnum - Viburnum prunifolium  
Leatherleaf Viburnum - Viburnum rhytidophyllum  
Judd Viburnum - Viburnum x juddii  
Weigela - Weigela florida

## **PLANTS OFTEN EATEN BY DEER**

Panicled Dogwood - Cornus racemosa  
Bloodtwig Dogwood - Cornus sanguinea  
Fragrant Winterhazel - Corylopsis glabrescens  
Winged Euonymus - Euonymus alata  
Wintercreeper - Euonymus fortunei  
Japanese Euonymus - Euonymus japonica  
Smooth Hydrangea - Hydrangea arborescens  
Bigleaf Hydrangea - Hydrangea macrophylla  
Panicle Hydrangea - Hydrangea paniculata  
Oakleaf Hydrangea - Hydrangea quercifolia  
Japanese Holly - Ilex crenata  
Blue Holly - Ilex x meserveae  
Shore Juniper - Juniperus conferta  
Mountain Laurel - Kalmia latifolia  
Heavenly Bamboo - Nandina sp.  
Purple Leaf Sand Cherry - Prunus x cistena  
Carolina Rhododendron - Rhododendron carolinianum  
Catawba Rhododendron - Rhododendron catawbiense  
Rosebay Rhododendron - Rhododendron maximum  
Pinxterbloom Azalea - Rhododendron penclymenoides  
Deciduous Azaleas - Rhododendron sp.  
Evergreen Azaleas - Rhododendron sp.  
Rhododendrons - Rhododendron sp.  
Multiflora Rose - Rosa multiflora  
Rugosa Rose - Rosa rugosa  
Hybrid Tea Rose - Rosa x hybrid  
Late Lilac - Syringa villosa  
Chinese Lilac - Syringa x chinensis  
Persian Lilac - Syringa x persica  
Highbush Blueberry - Vaccinium corymbosum  
Yews - Taxus sp

## **VINES**

Trumpet Creeper - Campsis radicans  
Clematis - Clematis sp.  
English Ivy - Hedera helix  
Climbing Hydrangea - Hydrangea anomala petiolaris  
Goldflame Honeysuckle - Lonicera x heckrottii  
Virginia Creeper - Parthenocissus quinquefolia