



# plants resistant to deer browsing

Some plants deter deer feeding by their odor, while others by their taste. Remember, that even some of the more "resistant" plants may still get nibbled as deer determine whether they are palatable or not. Feeding choices will also change with the seasons. During the warmer months, deer prefer to eat tender, leafy plants and leave most evergreens alone. This feeding pattern is completely opposite in the winter when evergreens become the primary food source. The plants on the following lists are ones that the deer are most likely to ignore by varying degrees.

**A** = Little to no feeding damage in most landscapes    **B** = Slight feeding damage or visual impact can occur  
**C** = Occasional feeding damage with more noticeable impact    \* = Select varieties

## TREES

Amelanchier (C)  
Baldcypress (C)  
Beech\* (B)  
Birch (A)  
Cherry, Kwanzan (B)  
Dawn Redwood (C)  
Dogwood\* (C)  
Heptacodium\* (B)  
Lilac\* (C)  
Ginkgo (B)  
Honeylocust (B)  
Linden (C)  
Magnolia\* (C)  
Maple, Paper Bark (C)  
Maple, Red (C)  
Maple, Sugar (C)  
Oak, Red & Pin (C)  
Pawpaw (B)  
Pear (C)  
Sweetgum (C)  
Tuliptree (C)  
Willow\* (C)  
Wisteria (B)

## SHRUBS

Abelia (A)  
Althea (C)  
Amelanchier (C)  
Aronia, Red (B)  
Azalea, Deciduous (C)  
Barberry (B)  
Bayberry (A)  
Beautyberry (C)  
Bluebeard (B)  
Broom, Scotch (B)  
Butterfly Bush (B)  
Clethra (C)  
Cotoneaster (C)  
Deutzia (C)  
Diervilla (B)  
Dogwood\* (C)  
Elder (C)  
Forsythia (B)  
Fothergilla (C)  
Honeysuckle (B)  
Hypericum (B)  
Kerria (C)  
Lilac, French Hybrids (B)

## SHRUBS (con'td)

Lilac, Late (C)  
Mockorange (C)  
Potentilla (C)  
Privet (C)  
Smoketree (C)  
Snowberry (B)  
Spirea\* (C)  
Sumac, Gro-Low (B)  
Sweetshrub (C)  
Sweetspire (C)  
Viburnum\* (C)  
Vitex (B)  
Weigela (C)  
Willow (C)



## EVERGREENS & BROADLEAFS

Arborvitae, Green Giant (C)  
Arborvitae, Whipcord (C)  
Boxwood (A)  
Cryptomeria (C)  
Cypress, Siberian (B)  
Fir, Concolor (C)  
Holly, Inkberry (B)  
Juniper\* (C)  
Pieris (A)  
Pine, Mugo (B)  
Pine, White (C)

## SUN PERENNIALS

Agastache (A)  
Allium (A)  
Anchusa (B)  
Anemone (B)  
Artemisia (B)  
Aster (B)  
Bachelor Button (B)  
Baptisia (A)  
Bee Balm (B)  
Candytuft (B)  
Catmint (A)  
Columbine (B)  
Coneflower (B)  
Coreopsis (B)  
Delphinium (B)  
Dianthus (B)

## SUN PERENNIALS (cont'd)

Foxglove (A)  
Gaillardia (C)  
Geranium (C)  
Grass, Perennial (A)  
Iris (B)  
Joe Pye (B)  
Lady's Mantle (B)  
Lamb's Ear (A)  
Lavender (A)  
Liatris (B)  
Lupine (B)  
Lychnis (A)  
Milkweed (B)  
Peony (A)  
Pincushion (B)  
Poker Plant (B)  
Poppy (A)  
Rhubarb (A)  
Rudbeckia (B)  
Russian Sage (A)  
Salvia (A)  
Snow in Summer (B)  
Spurge (A)  
Stoke's Aster (B)  
Sunflower (C)  
Veronica (B)  
Viola (B)  
Yarrow (B)  
Yucca (A)

**A** = Little to no feeding damage in most landscapes    **B** = Slight feeding damage or visual impact can occur  
**C** = Occasional feeding damage with more noticeable impact    \* = Select varieties

## SHADE PERENNIALS

Astilbe (B)  
Barrenwort (A)  
Bergenia (A)  
Bleeding Heart (A)  
Brunnera (A)  
Cimicifuga (A)  
Coral Bells (B)  
Corydalis (A)  
Fern (A)  
Foam Flower (B)  
Helleborus (A)  
Jacob's Ladder (B)  
Ligularia (A)  
Pulmonaria (A)  
Spiderwort (B)  
Toad Lilly (B)

## GROUND COVER

Ajuga (B)  
Bearberry (A)  
Bunchberry (B)  
Hens and Chicks (A)  
Lamium (A)  
Lily of the Valley (A)  
Liriope (B)  
Moss (A)  
Myrtle (C)  
Pachysandra (A)  
Plumbago (B)  
Sedum (A)  
Snow on the Mountain (A)  
Sweet Woodruff (A)  
Thyme (A)

## PERENNIAL VINES

Akebia (B)  
Dutchman's Pipe (B)  
Honeysuckle (C)  
Ivy, Boston (C)  
Ivy, Virginia Creeper (C)  
Porcelain Berry Vine (C)  
Silver Lace Vine (B)  
Trumpet Vine (C)  
Wisteria (B)

## ANNUALS

Ageratum (A)  
Alyssum (A)  
Angelonia (A)  
Begonia, Wax (C)  
Cleome (B)  
Coleus (B)  
Cosmos (B)  
Dusty Miller (B)  
Geranium (C)  
Marigold (A)  
Snapdragon (A)  
Torenia (A)  
Zinnia (B)

## HERBS

Chives (A)  
Dill (B)  
Mint (A)  
Oregano (B)  
Parsley (B)  
Rosemary (A)

## BULBS

Canna (B)  
Daffodil (A)  
Gladiolus (B)  
Hyacinth (B)

## PROTECT YOUR PLANTS

Here are a few options to protect deer susceptible plants from feeding:

- Exclusion by netting or fencing
  - Perimeter fencing must be at least 6 to 8 feet tall
  - Keep netting at least a foot away from perimeter of the plant when wrapping individually
- Deer repellent products
  - Available in liquid, granular or stake forms
  - Follow product label instructions, keeping in mind that product may need to be applied more frequently with overhead irrigation or after rain
  - Heavy feeding areas may require more frequent application of products or use of a combination of multiple deterrent methods
- Plant deer resistant varieties in front of or around susceptible plants to act as a buffer

## ANTLER RUBS

Antler rubs can occur between September and December on younger trees (<4" trunk diameter) or on shrubs with sturdy branching as small as 3/4" diameter. Damage most often includes scraped bark and broken branches, however, young trees may be completely snapped off by this rubbing action. Sturdy trunk guards or fencing barriers are the only way to protect your vulnerable plants during this time of year if male deer are present.

