



Resistance of Annuals, Biennials, Perennials, Groundcovers, and Vines to Deer Damage

The following list of herbaceous plants, groundcovers and 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”. Where a particular plant was listed by several individuals, it appears on this fact sheet under the heading where it was listed by the largest number of individuals. If an equal number of respondents placed a plant under two different headings, the plant appears under the heading which indicates it is more susceptible to deer damage than not. 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 and Biennials:

Ageratum Houstonianum - Ageratum
Antirrhinum majus - Snapdragon
Begonia x semperflorens-cultorum - Wax Begonia
Cleome Hasslerana - Cleome
Dahlia sp. - Dahlia
Datura sp. - Thorn Apple
Digitalis sp. - Foxglove
Gaillardia pulchella - Blanket Flower
Heliotropium arborecens - Heliotrope
Hypoestes phyllostachya - Polka-Dot Plant
Ipomoea sp. - Morning Glory
Lobelia Erinus - Edging Lobelia
Lobularia maritima - Sweet Alyssum
Mirabilis Jalapa - Four-O’Clock
Myosotis sylvatica - Forget-Me-Not
Ocimum Basilicum - Sweet Basil
Papaver sp. - Poppy
Pelargonium x hortorum - Zonal Geranium
Petroselinum crispum - Parsley
Salvia farinacea - Blue Salvia
Senecio Cineraria - Dusty Miller
Silybum sp. Thistle
Tagetes sp. - Marigold
Verbena x hybrida - Verbena

Herbaceous Perennials:

Achillea sp. - Yarrow, Sneezeweed
Allium Schoenoprasum - Chives
Allium sp. - Ornamental Onion

Allium tuerosum - Garlic Chives
Alyssum saxatile - Basket-of-Gold
Amsonia tabernaemontana - Amsonia
Anemone sp. - Anemones
Angelica Archangelica - Angelica
Aquilegia canadensis - Columbine
Arisaema triphyllum - Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Artemisia sp. - Wormwood
Aruncus dioicus - Goatsbeard
Asclepias tuberosa - Butterfly Weed
Astilbe sp. - Astilbe
Baptisia sp. - False Indigo
Bergenia sp. - Bergenia
Boltonia asteroides - Boltonia
Buddleia davidii - Butterfly Bush
Calluna sp. - Heather
Campanula carpatica - Tussock Bellflower
Centurea sp. - Knapweed
Ceratostigma plumbaginoides - Plumbago
Chelone sp. - Turtlehead
Chrysanthemum coccineum - Painted Daisy
Chrysanthemum x superbum - Shasta Daisy
Chrysanthemum parthenium - Feverfew
Cimicifuga racemosa - Bugbane
Coreopsis sp. - Coreopsis
Dennstaedtia punctilobula - Hay-scented Fern
Dianthus sp. - Sweet William, Pinks
Dicentra exima - Bleeding Heart
Dictamnus albus - Gas Plant
Echinacea purpurea - Purple Coneflower
Echinops sp. - Globe Thistle
Erica sp. - Heath

Plants Rarely or Never Eaten By Deer

Herbaceous Perennials: (continued)

Eupatorium sp. - Joe-Pye Weed
Euphorbia sp. - Spurge
Filipendula sp. - Queen-of-the-Prairie
Fritillaria imperialis - Crown Imperial
Geum sp. - Avens
Gypsophila paniculata - Baby's Breath
Helleborus sp. - Hellebore
Iberis sempervirens - Candytuft
Kirengeshoma palmata - Kirengeshoma
Lavandula sp. - Lavender
Liatris spicata - Spike Gayfeather
Lilium lancifolium - Tiger Lily
Limonium latifolium - Statice
Linaria sp. - Toadflax
Linum perenne - Perennial Blue Flax
Lupinus sp. - Lupine
Lythrum sp. - Loosestrife
Matteuccia struthiopteris - Ostrich Fern
Mentha Pulegium - Pennyroyal
Mentha sp. - Mint
Mitchella repens - Partridgeberry
Monarda didyma - Beebalm
Myosotis scorpioides - Forget-Me-Not
Myrrhis odorata - Sweet Cicely
Narcissus sp. - Daffodil
Nepeta sp. - Catmint
Oenothera tetragona - Sundrops
Oenothera sp. - Evening Primrose
Onoclea sensibilis - Sensitive Fern
Origanum sp. - Oregano
Osmunda cinnamomea - Cinnamon Fern
Osmunda claytoniana - Interrupted Fern
Osmunda regalis - Royal Fern
Papaver orientale - Oriental Poppy
Phalaris arundinacea 'Picta' - Ribbon Grass
Platycodon grandiflorus - Balloon Flower
Polemonium caeruleum - Jacob's Ladder
Polystichum acrostichoides - Christmas Fern
Potentilla sp. - Cinquefoil
Primula sp. - Primrose
Pulmonaria sp. - Lungwort
Ranunculus sp. - Buttercup
Rheum sp. - Rhubarb
Rosmarinus officinalis - Rosemary
Salvia sp. - Sage
Saponaria sp. - Soapwort
Scilla sp. - Scilla
Solidago sp. - Goldenrod
Stachys byzantina - Lamb's Ear
Tanacetum sp. - Tansy
Thelypteris noveboracensis - New York Fern
Verbascum sp. - Mullein

Veronica latifolia - Hungarian Speedwell
Vinca major - Greater Periwinkle
Viola labridorica - Labrador Violet
Yucca sp. - Yucca

Perennial Groundcovers:

Aegopodium Podagraria - Bishop's Weed
Ajuga reptans - Bugleweed
Asperula odorata - Sweet Woodruff
Convallaria majallis - Lily-of-the-Valley
Epimedium sp. - Dead Nettle
Pachysandra terminalis - Japanese Pachysandra
Vinca minor - Periwinkle

Perennial Vines:

Celastrus sp. - Bittersweet
Clematis sp. - Clematis
Lonicera sp. - Honeysuckle
Wisteria sp. - Wisteria

Plants Occasionally Eaten By Deer

Annuals and Biennials:

Achimenes sp. - Pansy
Helianthus annuus - Sunflower

Herbaceous Perennials:

Endymion sp. - Wood Hyacinth
Geranium maculatum - Cranesbill Geranium
Hedera helix - English Ivy
Iris sp. - Iris
Paeonia sp. - Peony
Rudbeckia sp. - Coneflower
Sedum purpureum 'Autumn Joy' -
Autumn Joy Sedum
Thalictrum sp. - Meadow Rue

Plants Often Eaten By Deer

Annuals and Biennials:

Alcea rosea - Hollyhocks
Impatiens sp. - Impatiens
Tithonia rotundifolia - Mexican Sunflower

Herbaceous Perennials:

Crocus sp. - Crocus
Hemerocallis sp. - Daylily
Hosta sp. - Hosta
Lobelia cardinalis - Cardinal Flower
Phlox sp. - Phlox
Rosa sp. - Rose
Tulipa sp. - Tulips

Resource: *Resistance of Annuals, Biennials, Perennials, Groundcovers and Vines To Deer Damage*, written/compiled by David Chinery, Cornell Cooperative Extension - Westchester County, 1993.

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