

DEER SCAPING



Almost any plant may be nibbled by deer

especially when there are young inexperienced deer around developing their menu of safe-to-eat plants. New plantings can be particularly at risk because deer are inquisitive and like to check out what's new to eat in their area. Deer at one end of an island may or may not browse on the same plants as deer at the other end. Also, deer browse as they travel so any plant on their habitual pathways is likely to be nibbled. In short, no plant is guaranteed not to be at least sampled.

Note: *Deer do not care for plants that have strongly scented or aromatic foliage, fuzzy leaves, or prickly leaves and stems. E.g., Lavender, Lychnis coronaria (Rose Campion), Berberis varieties (Barberry), Pervoskia (Russian Sage).*

DEER DETERENTS

FENCING

- A 1.8-2.4m (6-8') fence with a gate, a strong lockable latch and spring hinges to keep the gate firmly closed.

COMMERCIAL DEER REPELLENTS

- Products like DeerSkydd used according to package directions.
- Blood Meal sprinkled around plants acts as a deterrent. Apply after rainfall or watering.

OTHER DEER REPELLENTS

- Human or dog hair in 'sachets' hung around the garden.
- Bars of deodorant soap drilled in the middle and hung 90cm (36") above the ground.
- A good dog or dogs!

DEER RESISTANT PLANTS

TREES - Vine Maple, Red Maple, Silk Tree, Eddie's White Wonder Dogwood, Pink Dogwood, Korean Dogwood, Japanese Cedar, Beech, Hollywood Juniper, Sweet Gum, Magnolias, Norway Spruce, Serbian Spruce, Golden Oriental Spruce, Colorado Blue Spruce, Pines.

Note: *Young, newly planted deciduous trees should be surrounded by a cage of chicken wire or similar protection to keep deer from damaging the bark.*

SHRUBS - Barberry, Butterfly Bush, Boxwood, Bluebeard, Rock Rose, Cotoneaster, Warminster Broom, Daphnes, Lydia Broom, English and Japanese Holly, Oregon Grape, New Zealand Flax, Pieris, Potentilla, Rhododendron, Rosemary, Sarcococca, Skimmia, Windmill Palm, Yucca.

PERENNIALS - Achillea (Yarrow), Aconitum (Monkshood), Ajuga (Bugleweed), Arabis (Snow-in-summe), Convallaria (Lily-of-the-Valley), Coreopsis (Tickseed), Crocosmia, Digitalis (Foxglove), Dianthus (Pink and Carnations), Echinacea (Coneflowers), Eryngium (Sea Holly), Euphorbia (Spurge), Fennel, Helleborus (Hellebores), Iris, Kniphofia (Red Hot Poker), Lavendula (Lavender), Leucathemum (Shasta Daisy), Lychnis coronaria (Rose Champion), Oregano, Papaver orientale (Oriental Poppy), Pervoskia (Russian Sage), Rudbeckia (Black-eyed Susan), Rue, Salvias, Santolina (Lavender Cotton), Sedums (Stonecrop), Sempervirens (Hens & Chicks) Sisyrinchium (Blue-eyed Grass), Thymus (Creeping Thyme), Verbena bonariensis (Brazilian Verbena), Verbascum (Mullein).

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Practically all grasses are 'deer resistant'

FERNS

Practically all ferns are deer resistant although the tips may be nibbled in spring.

ANNUALS - Ageratum, Argyranthemum, Non-Stop Begonias, Brugmansia, Calendula, Cleome, Dianthus, Datura, Dracaena Spikes, Impatiens, Marigolds, Mimulus, Osteospermum, Verbena, Zinnia.

GROUNDCOVERS - Arctostaphylos (Kinnickinik), Cotoneaster dammeri (Bearberry Cotoneaster, Galium oderatum (Sweet Woodruff), Gaultheria procumbens (Wintergreen), Genista pilosa 'Vancouver Gold', Hypericum calycinum (St. John's Wort), Sedums (Stoncrop), Thymus (Creeping Thyme)

VINES - Clematis, Jasminum officinale (Poet's Jasmine), Solanum 'Glasnevin' (Blue Potato Vine), Trachelospermum jasminoides (Star Jasmine).

IN CONCLUSION

It is possible to enjoy a beautiful garden and still co-exist with the deer. All it takes is a little imagination, perseverance and sometimes a little luck, too.



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