

Rabbit Resistant Plants

One of the joys of living outside of the noise and pollution of the city are the trees, rambling streams and animals all around us. From deer, birds, squirrels, rabbits, and reptiles, we have chosen to live with a variety of wildlife. While we enjoy seeing these critters, they also need food. As humans move into areas, and the natural flora is removed, animals seek alternative food sources. Rabbits and deer tend to have the largest impact. Often their food becomes the plants, shrubs, and trees we have meticulously planted. Fencing is the best way to deter them but not every location or budget allows for fencing. Here are some other ideas to deter rabbits and deer from making your garden or flower bed their next meal.

Plant an outside border of plants the deer and rabbits won't eat. Think smelly, highly aromatic, or even toxic. Roses and other desirable plants can be grown behind these borders and the bunnies will stay away. While this works well for deterring rabbits, this method is not effective for deer.

Other options are sprays, powders, and organic fertilizers. The biggest benefit of using these products is, if you follow the directions, they are effective and harmless to people, animals, and pets. Remember, you will need to re-apply the spray or powder after each heavy rain. It is possible to find a recipe online allowing you to make a lower cost alternative with common kitchen ingredients. Organic fertilizers like bone and blood meal play a double role. They provide nutrients while mimicking dead animals so deer and rabbits believe the “enemy” is amongst them. Make sure you use equal amounts of both blood and bone meal to maintain a balance of nitrogen and phosphorus.

Ultrasonic noisemakers, while undetectable to humans, will scare off deer and rabbits. Larger sized gardens require multiple devices often making this option cost prohibitive.

If possible, leave a section of your garden native, or plant with native species that deer and rabbits love to eat. A garden of native plants needs less water, provide sheltering habitat, and food. These plants also grow without the use of commercial fertilizers and pesticides. Native gardens also attract beneficial bugs that benefit the rest of your landscape.

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Annuals

Ageratum	Alyssum	Begonia – Wax	Celosia	Cleome	Calendula	Geraniums
Iceland Poppy	Impatiens – New Guinea		Lantana	Lobelia	Marigolds	Mums
Nasturtiums	Nicotiana	Rudbeckia	Snapdragons	Stock	Strawflower	Sunflowers
Vinca	Zinnia					

Groundcover

Ajuga	Arctostaphylos	Convallaria	Epimedium	Fragaria	Gallium	Gaultheria
Hypericum	Rubus	Vinca				

Herbs

Allium	Hyssop	Lavandula	Melissa	Mentha	Nepeta	Origanum
Rosmarinus	Salvia	Santolina	Teucrium	Thymus		

Ornamental Grasses

Carex- Sedge	Cortaderia	Liriope	Miscanthus	Ophiopogon	Pennesetum	Yucca
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Rabbit Resistant Plants continued...

Shrubs / Vines

Buddleia	Buxus	Caryopteris	Ceanothus	Clematis	Clethra	Cotinus
Cornus – Dogwood		Cotoneaster	Cytisus	Daphne	Deutzia	Elderberry
Euonymus	Fothergilla	Hibiscus	Hydrangea	Itea	Ilex	Lilac
Lonicera	Mahonia	Schizophragma	Spirea	Sumac	Taxus	Viburnum
Weigela						

Vegetables

Artichoke	Asparagus	Eggplant	Garlic	Leek	Onion	Pepper
Potato	Rhubarb	Squash	Tomato			

Perennials / Bulbs

Acanthus	Achillea	Aconitum	Agastache	Alchemilla	Allium	Aquilegia
Asarum	Asclepias	Astilbe	Acanthus	Artemesia	Baptisia	Bergenia
Campanula	Chrysanthemum	Cerastium	Cimicifuga	Coreopsis	Corydalis	Crocasmia
Cyclamen	Daffodils	Delphinium	Dicentra	Echinacea	Epimedium	Eranthis
Erica	Eryngium	Eucomis	Euphorbia	Ferns – Hardy	Fritillaria	Gaillardia
Geum	Geranium	Helianthus	Helleborus	Hemerocallis	Heuchera	Hypericum
Hyssop	Iberis	Iris	Kniphofia	Lavandula	Leucanthemum	Linium
Lychnis	Monarda	Paeonia	Penstemon	Perovskia	Phlox	Phygelius
Pulmonaria	Sedum	Sisyrinchium	Stachys	Verbena	Veronica	Viola