

Deer 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.

Deer Resistant Plants

Trees

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| Abies | Acer circinatum | Acer negundo | Acer palmatum | Aesculus | Albizia |
| Araucaria | Asimjna – Paw Paw | Betula | Cedrus | Cercis | Chamaerops |
| Fig | Ginko | Juglans – Walnut | Liquidambar | Magnolia | Picea |
| Pinus | Prunus | Pseudotsuga | Quercus | Rhus | Robinia |
| Sequoiadendron | | Sorbus | Thuja | Trachycarpus | |

Groundcover

| | | | | | |
|--------|----------------|-----------|----------|--------|------------|
| Ajuga | Arctostaphylos | Erodium | Fragaria | Galium | Gaultheria |
| Hedera | Hypericum | Lithodora | Salal | Sagina | Veronica |
| Vinca | | | | | |

Shrubs

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| Abelia | Arbutus | Aronia | Bamboo | Berberis | Buddleia |
| Buxus | Calluna | Calycanthus | Ceanothus | Chaenomeles | Choisya |
| Cistus | Clematis | Corokia | Continus | Cotoneaster | Daphne |
| Eleagnus | Erica | Fatsia | Feijoa | Forsythia | Ilex |
| Juniperus | Kerria | Kolkwitzia | Lagerstromia | Leucothoe | Lonicera |
| Mahonia | Myrica californica | Nandina | Osmanthus | Pieris | Potentilla |
| Pyracantha | Rhododendron | Rhus | Ribes | Sarcococca | Spirea |
| Symphocarpus | Viburnum | Weigelia | Wisteria | | |

Deer Resistant Plants continued...

Bulbs

| | | | | | |
|--------|--------|----------|-------------|------|-----------|
| Allium | Crocus | Daffodil | Fritillaria | Ixia | Narcissus |
| Scilla | | | | | |

Annuals

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| Ageratum | Begonia – Tuberos | Calendula | Celosia | Centaurea | |
| Chrysanthemum | | Cosmos | Dahlia | Dusty Miller | Euryops |
| Felicia | Freesia | Godetia | Heliachrysum | Impatiens | Lantana |
| Limonium | Lobelia | Lobularia | Marigold | Mimulus | |
| Myosotis – Forget-Me-Not | | Salvia | Sanvitalia | Snapdragon | Verbena |
| Wallflower | Zinnia | | | | |

Ornamental Grasses

| | | | | | |
|------------|---------------|------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| Acorus | Calamagrostis | Carex | Chasmanthium | Cortaderia | Deschampsia |
| Elymus | Erianthus | Festuca | Hakonechloa | Helictotrichon | Imperata |
| Juncus | Liriope | Miscanthus | Muhlenbergia | Ophiopogon | Panicum |
| Pennisetum | Phormium | Sesleri | Stipa | | |

Perennials

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Acanthus | Achillea | Agapanthus | Anemone | Artemesia | Aster |
| Astilbe | Aubritia | Brunnera | Campanula | Centaurea | Centranthus |
| Cerastium | Cherianthus | Chrysanthemum | Coreopsis | Crocsmia | Dicentra |
| Digitalis | Epimedium | Erigeron | Erysimum | Euphorbia | Gaillardia |
| Gunnera | Helleborus | Hemerocallis | Iberis | Iris | |
| Kniphofia – Hot Poker | | Lamium | Lavendula | Limomium | Lobelia |
| Lupinus | Lychnis | Monarda | Muscari | Nepeta | Oregano |
| Paeonia | Papaver | Penistemon | Perovskia | Plumbago | Raoulia |
| Rudbeckia | Salvia | Santolina | Scabiosa | Silene | Sisyrinchium |
| Stachys | Teucrium | Tradescantia | Trillium | Veronica | Viola |