



Gardening in Areas with Deer Problems

“Using plants that deer don’t like to eat (deer resistant plants) may at first seem as if it is the most logical and effective means of deer-proofing your garden; however, it is not an exact science. What may work well in one place may prove ineffective in others.

Hungry deer will try to eat anything!”

-Vincent Drzewukcki Jr.

The following is a list of plants recommended to have low, moderate, and high risk of being eaten by deer. Please note that this **is not a guarantee**, but rather a suggested way of dealing with your deer problem. Please help improve this list by sharing your experiences with this list.

**Note: Small trees, even the low browse species, are still susceptible to Buck Rub during the cooler months (November – March), in areas with high deer population protection on young trees is necessary.*

Low Browse Risk:

Annuals:

Ageratum	<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	Sweet Alyssum	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>
Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	Monkey Flower	<i>Mimulus cuprens</i>
Wax Begonia	<i>Begonia x semperflorens-cultorum</i>	Four O’Clock	<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>
Angel’s Trumpet	<i>Brugmansia spp.</i>	Forget-Me-Not	<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>
Calendula	<i>Calendula spp.</i>	Flowering Tobacco	<i>Nicotiana spp.</i>
Ornamental Peppers	<i>Capsicum spp.</i>	African Daisy	<i>Osteospermum fruticosum</i>
Vinca	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	Annual Poppy	<i>Papaver spp.</i>
Cleome	<i>Cleome hassleriana</i>	Geranium	<i>Pelargonium x hortorum</i>
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>	Pentas	<i>Pentas lanceolata</i>
Dahlia	<i>Dahlia spp.</i>	Petunia	<i>Petunia x hybrid</i>
Thorn Apple	<i>Datura spp.</i>	Salvia	<i>Salvia spp.</i>
Sweet William	<i>Dianthus barbatus</i>	Dusty Miller	<i>Senecio cinerama</i>
Diamond Frost	<i>Euphorbia graminea</i>	Persian Shield	<i>Strobilanthus spp.</i>
Heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium arborescens</i>	Marigold	<i>Tagetes patula</i>
Polk-a-dot Plant	<i>Hypoestes phyllostachya</i>	Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>
Moonflower	<i>Ipomoea alba</i>	Verbena	<i>Verbena spp.</i>
Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>	Zinnia	<i>Zinnia elegans</i>
Edging Lobelia	<i>Lobelia erinus</i>		

Perennials:

Bear’s Breeches	<i>Acanthus spp.</i>	Aralia	<i>Aralia cordata</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Jack-in-the-Pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>
Monkshood	<i>Aconitum spp.</i>	Seathrift	<i>Armeria maritima</i>
Anise Hyssop	<i>Agastache spp.</i>	Wormwood	<i>Artemisia spp.</i>
Bugleweed	<i>Ajuga spp.</i>	Goatsbeard	<i>Aruncus spp.</i>
Hollyhock	<i>Alcea spp.</i>	Wild Ginger	<i>Asarum spp.</i>
Lady’s Mantle	<i>Alchemilla spp.</i>	Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias spp.</i>
Ornamental Onion	<i>Alium spp.</i>	New York Aster	<i>Aster novi-belgi</i>
Blue Star	<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	Masterwort	<i>Astrantia spp.</i>
Blue Alkanet	<i>Anchusa spp.</i>	Purple Rockcress	<i>Aubretia deltoidea</i>
Anemone	<i>Anemone spp.</i>	Basket of Gold	<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>
Angelica	<i>Angelica archangelica</i>	False Indigo	<i>Baptisia spp.</i>
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia spp.</i>	Blackberry Lily	<i>Belamchanda spp.</i>
Rockcress	<i>Arabis caucasica</i>		

Bergenia	<i>Bergenia spp.</i>	Torch Lily	<i>Kniphofia spp.</i>
Boltonia	<i>Boltonia spp.</i>	Deadnettle	<i>Lamium spp.</i>
Bugloss	<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>	Lavender	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>
Calamint	<i>Calamintha spp.</i>	Gayfeather	<i>Liatris spicata</i>
Wine Cups	<i>Callirhoe spp.</i>	Ligularia	<i>Ligularia spp.</i>
Heather	<i>Calluna spp.</i>	Statice	<i>Limonium latifolium</i>
Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Toadflax	<i>Linaria spp.</i>
Wild Hyacinth	<i>Camassia spp.</i>	Blue Flax	<i>Linum perenne</i>
Bellflower	<i>Campanula spp.</i>	Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia spp.</i>
Jupiter's Beard	<i>Centranthus spp.</i>	Lupine	<i>Lupinus spp.</i>
Bachelor Button	<i>Centaurea montana</i>	Rose Campion	<i>Lychnis coronaria</i>
Knapweed	<i>Centura spp.</i>	Japanese Loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia clethroides</i>
Snow-in-Summer	<i>Cerastium spp.</i>	Ostrich Fern	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>
Plumbago/Leadwort	<i>Ceratostigma spp.</i>	Virginia Bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>
Turtlehead	<i>Chelone spp.</i>	Partridgeberry	<i>Mitchella repens</i>
Goldenstar	<i>Chrysogonum virginiana</i>	Beebalm	<i>Monarda spp.</i>
Snakeroot, Bugbane	<i>Cimicifuga racemose</i>	Crimson Fans	<i>Mukdenia rossi</i>
Clematis	<i>Clematis spp.</i>	Forget-Me-Not	<i>Myosotis spp.</i>
Lily-of-the-Valley	<i>Convallaria spp.</i>	Sweet Cicely	<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>
Tickseed	<i>Coreopsis spp.</i>	Daffodil	<i>Narcissus spp.</i>
Yellow Bleeding-Heart	<i>Corydalis lutea</i>	Catmint	<i>Nepeta spp.</i>
Crocsmia	<i>Crocsmia spp.</i>	Sundrops	<i>Oenothera tetragona</i>
Japanese Holly Fern	<i>Cyrtomium fortunei</i>	Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera spp.</i>
Hay-Scented Fern	<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>	Sensitive Fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>
Ice Plant	<i>Delosperma spp.</i>	Ornamental Oregano	<i>Origanum spp.</i>
Delphinium	<i>Delphinium spp.</i>	Ornamental Grasses	Most Species
Sweet William, Pinks	<i>Dianthus spp.</i>	Cinnamon Fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>
Bleeding Heart	<i>Dicentra spp.</i>	Interrupted Fern	<i>Osmunda clavtoniana</i>
Gas Plant	<i>Dictamnus albus</i>	Royal Fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis spp.</i>	Spurge	<i>Pachysandra spp.</i>
Shooting Star	<i>Dodecatheon spp.</i>	Poppy	<i>Papaver spp.</i>
Leopard's Bane	<i>Doronicum spp.</i>	Russian Sage	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>
Globe Thistle	<i>Echinops spp.</i>	Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon spp.</i>
Blue Lyme Grass	<i>Elymus spp.</i>	Blue Woodland Phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>
Barrenwort	<i>Epimedium spp.</i>	Creeping Phlox	<i>Phlox subulata</i>
Heath	<i>Erica spp.</i>	Obedient Plant	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>
Sea Holly	<i>Eryngium spp.</i>	Balloon Flower	<i>Platycodon grandiflorus</i>
Joe-Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium spp.</i>	Mayapple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>
Spurge	<i>Euphorbia spp.</i>	Jacob's Latter	<i>Polemonium spp.</i>
Ferns	Most all Ferns	Soloman's Seal	<i>Polygonatum spp.</i>
Queen-of-the-Prairie	<i>Filipendula rubra</i>	Christmas Fern	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>
Meadow Sweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla spp.</i>
Sweet Woodruff	<i>Galium spp.</i>	Primrose	<i>Primula spp.</i>
Blanket Flower	<i>Gaillardia x grandiflora</i>	Lungwort	<i>Pulmonaria spp.</i>
Gaura	<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i>	Pasque Flower	<i>Pulsatilla vulgaris</i>
Gentian	<i>Gentiana spp.</i>	Mountain Mint	<i>Pycnanthemum spp.</i>
Cranesbill	<i>Geranium spp.</i> (not 'Rozanne)	Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus spp.</i>
Avens	<i>Geum spp.</i>	Prairie Coneflower	<i>Ratibida spp.</i>
Bowman's Root	<i>Gillenia trifoliata</i>	Rhubarb	<i>Rheum spp.</i>
Baby's Breath	<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>	Rodgersia	<i>Rodgersia spp.</i>
Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Irish Moss	<i>Sagina spp.</i>
Jerusalem Artichoke	<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>	Meadow Sage	<i>Salvia spp.</i>
False Sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Burnett	<i>Sanguisorba spp.</i>
Helleborus, Lenten Rose	<i>Helleborus spp.</i>	Lavender Cotton	<i>Santolina spp.</i>
Dame's Rocket	<i>Hesperis spp.</i>	Soapwort	<i>Saponaria spp.</i>
Perennial Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Mossy saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga arendsii</i>
St. John's Wort	<i>Hypericum spp.</i>	Pincushion Flower	<i>Scabiosa spp.</i>
Candytuft	<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	Catchfly	<i>Silene spp.</i>
Iris	<i>Iris spp.</i> (Most)	Blue-Eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium spp.</i>
Waxy Bells	<i>Kirengeshoma palmata</i>	Goldenrod	<i>Solidago spp.</i>
Pin-cushion Flower	<i>Knautia spp.</i>	Lamb's Ear	<i>Stachys byzantina</i>

Stoke's Aster	<i>Stokesia spp.</i>	Trillium	<i>Trillium spp.</i>
Feverfew	<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	Ornamental Mullein	<i>Verbascum spp.</i>
Germander	<i>Teuchrium spp.</i>	Ironweed	<i>Vernonia spp.</i>
Meadow Rue	<i>Thalictrum spp.</i>	Speedwell	<i>Veronica spp.</i>
Creeping Thyme	<i>Thymus spp.</i>	Culver's Root	<i>Veronicastrum spp.</i>
Foam Flower	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Myrtle	<i>Vinca minor</i>
Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia spp.</i>	Labrador Violet	<i>Viola labradorica</i>
Toadlily	<i>Tricyrtis hirta</i>	Adam's Needle	<i>Yucca</i> (flowers maybe browsed)
Globe Flower	<i>Trollis spp.</i>		

Groundcovers:

Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	Ferns	Most Species
Bugle Weed	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Sweet Woodruff	<i>Galium spp.</i>
Bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursa</i>	Dead Nettle	<i>Lamium maculatum</i>
Wild Ginger	<i>Asarum spp.</i>	Lily Turf	<i>Liriope spp.</i>
Pigsqueak	<i>Bergenia spp.</i>	Pachysandra	<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>
Snow-in-Summer	<i>Cerastium spp.</i>	Sedum (Some)	<i>Sedum spp.</i>
Plumbago	<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	Hens and Chicks	<i>Sempervivums spp.</i>
Lily-of-the-Valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia spp.</i>
Bunchberry	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	Periwinkle	<i>Vinca spp.</i>
Barronwort	<i>Epimedium grandiflorum</i>		

Shrubs:

Bottlebrush Buckeye	<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>
Barberry	<i>Berberis spp.</i>	Nest Spruce	<i>Picea abies 'Nidiformis'</i>
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Dwarf Norway Spruce	<i>Picea abies 'Pumila'</i>
Boxwood	<i>Buxus spp.</i>	Globe Spruce	<i>Picea pungens 'Globosa'</i>
Sweetshrub	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	Mock Orange	<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>
Blue Mist, Blue Beard	<i>Caryopteris clandonensis</i>	Mugo Pine	<i>Pinus mugo</i>
Japanese Plum Yew	<i>Cephalotaxus harringtonia</i>	Andromeda/Pieris	<i>Pieris japonica</i>
Summersweet	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Potentilla	<i>Potentilla spp.</i>
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster spp.</i>	Sumac	<i>Rhus spp.</i>
Smokebush	<i>Cotinus spp.</i>	Currants	<i>Ribes spp.</i>
Scotch Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Willow	<i>Salix spp.</i>
Daphne	<i>Daphne spp.</i>	Elder (Elderberry)	<i>Sambucus spp.</i>
Deutzia	<i>Deutzia spp.</i>	False Spirea	<i>Sorbaria sorbifolia</i>
Disanthus	<i>Disanthus cercidifolius</i>	Spirea	<i>Spirea spp.</i>
Redvein Enkianthus	<i>Enkianthus campanulatus</i>	Snowberry, Coralberry	<i>Symphoricarpos spp.</i>
Fothergilla	<i>Fothergilla spp.</i>	Meyer Lilac	<i>Syringa meyeri</i>
Witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis spp.</i>	Korean Spice Viburnum	<i>Viburnum carlesii</i>
St. John's Wort	<i>Hypericum spp.</i>	Linden Viburnum	<i>Viburnum dilatatum</i>
Spreading Juniper	<i>Juniperus spp.</i>	Mohican Viburnum	<i>Viburnum lantana 'Mohican'</i>
Japanese Kerria	<i>Kerria japonica</i>	Double File Viburnum	<i>Viburnum plicatum</i>
Beautybush	<i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i>	Blackhaw Viburnum	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>
Leptodermis	<i>Leptodermis oblonga</i>	Leatherleaf Viburnum	<i>Viburnum rhytidophyllum</i>
Leucothoe	<i>Leucothoe spp.</i>	Pink Dawn Viburnum	<i>Viburnum x bodnantense</i>
Privet	<i>Ligustrum spp.</i>	Burkwood Viburnum	<i>Viburnum x burkwoodii</i>
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Fragrant Viburnum	<i>Viburnum x carlcephalum</i>
Oregon Grape Holly	<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Weigela	<i>Weigela florida</i>
Carpet Cypress	<i>Microbiota decussata</i>	Dusty Zenobia	<i>Zenobia pulverulenta</i>
Bayberry	<i>Myrica pennsylvanica</i>		

Trees:

Mimosa	<i>Albizia julibrissia</i>	Fringe Tree	<i>Chionanthus spp.</i>
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus spp.</i>	Yellowwood	<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>
Chestnuts	<i>Castanea spp.</i>	American Smoketree	<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>
Catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus spp.</i>
Atlas Cedar	<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	Beech	<i>Fagus spp.</i>
Katsura	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	Hazelnut/Filberts	<i>Corylus spp.</i>

Franklin Tree	<i>Franklinia alatamaha</i>	Persian Parrotia	<i>Parrotia persica</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus spp.</i>	Spruce	<i>Picea spp.</i>
Maidenhair Tree	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Bosnian Pine	<i>Pinus leucodermis</i>
Honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Sycamore	<i>Platanus spp.</i>
Kentucky Coffee Tree	<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	Sumac	<i>Rhus spp.</i>
Carolina Silverbell	<i>Halesia Carolina</i>	Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
Juniper	<i>Juniperus spp.</i>	Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>
Golden Chain Tree	<i>Laburnum x watereri</i>	Stewartia	<i>Stewartia spp.</i>
Larch	<i>Larix spp.</i>	Japanese Tree Lilac	<i>Syringa reticulata</i>
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Linden	<i>Tilia spp.</i>
Tulip Tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Elm	<i>Ulmus spp.</i>
Dawn Redwood	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Chastetree	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>
Black Gum, Tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Japanese Zelkova	<i>Zelkova serrata</i>
Sourwood	<i>Oxydendron arboretum</i>		

Moderate Browse Risk:

Annuals:

Flowering Kale	<i>Brassica oleacea</i>	Purslane	<i>Portulaca spp.</i>
Sunflowers	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Mexican Sunflower	<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>

Perennials:

Astilbe	<i>Astilbe spp.</i>	Grape Hyacinth	<i>Muscari armeniacum</i>
Canna Lily	<i>Canna Hybrids</i>	Black Eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia spp.</i>
Shasta Daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>		
Coneflowers	<i>Echinacea spp.</i>		

Shrubs:

Chokeberry	<i>Aronia spp.</i>	Sweetspire	<i>Itea virginiana</i>
Beauty Berry	<i>Callicarpa spp.</i>	Eastern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Purple Leaf Sandcherry	<i>Prunus x cistena</i>
False Cypress	<i>Chamaecyperis spp.</i>	Firethorn	<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>
Yellowtwig Dogwood	<i>Cornus alba</i>	Raspberry	<i>Rubus spp.</i>
Redtwig Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Persian Lilac	<i>Syringa x persica</i>
Winterhazel	<i>Corylopsis spp.</i>	Late Blooming Lilac	<i>Syringa villosa</i>
Bush Honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla spp.</i>	Common Lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>
Burning Bush	<i>Euonymus alatas</i>	Mapleleaf Viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>
Forsythia	<i>Forsythia spp.</i>	Witherrod Viburnum	<i>Viburnum cassinoides</i>
Rose-of-Sharon	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	Arrowwood Viburnum	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>
Japanese Holly	<i>Ilex crenata</i>	Snowball Viburnum	<i>Viburnum opulus 'Sterlis'</i>
Ink Berry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	PossumHaw Viburnum	<i>Viburnum nudum</i>
American Holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Cranberry	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>
Winterberry	<i>Ilex spp.</i>		

Trees:

White Fir	<i>Abies concolor</i>	Japanese Cedar	<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>
Horsechestnut	<i>Aesculus spp.</i>	Magnolia	<i>Magnolia spp.</i>
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>	Pine	<i>Pinus spp. (most)</i>
Birch	<i>Betula spp.</i>	Oak	<i>Quercus spp</i>
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Western Arborvitae	<i>Thuja plicata</i>
Hinoki Cypress	<i>Chamaecyperis obtuse</i>	Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>
Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus spp.</i>		

High Browse Risk:

Annuals:

Celosia	<i>Celosia argentea</i>	Violas	<i>Viola tricolor</i>
Impatiens	<i>Impatiens spp.</i>	Pansies	<i>Viola x wittrockiana</i>
Sweet Potato Vine	<i>Ipomoea batatas</i>		

Perennials:

Mum	<i>Chrysanthemum spp.</i>	Lilies	<i>Lilium spp.</i>
Crocus	<i>Crocus spp.</i>	Phlox, garden	<i>Phlox paniculata</i>
Strawberry	<i>Fragaria spp.</i>	Roses	<i>Rosa spp.</i>
Daylily	<i>Hemerocallis spp.</i>	Stonecrop	<i>Sedum spectabile</i>
Hosta	<i>Hosta spp.</i>	Tulip	<i>Tulipa spp.</i>
		Violets	<i>Viola spp.</i>

Shrubs:

Quince	<i>Chaenomeles spp.</i>	Azalea	<i>Rhododendron spp.</i>
Euonymus	<i>Euonymus spp.</i>	Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron spp.</i>
Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea spp.</i>	Yews	<i>Taxus spp.</i>
Meserve Hybrid Holly	<i>Ilex spp.</i>	Arborvitae	<i>Thuja spp.</i>
Mountain Laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium spp.</i>

Trees: (should be protected while young)

Balsam Fir	<i>Abies balsamea</i>	Apricot	<i>Prunus armeniaca</i>
Frasier Fir	<i>Abies fraseri</i>	Cherry, Flowering Cherry	<i>Prunus spp.</i>
Maples	<i>Acer spp.</i>	Plum	<i>Prunus spp.</i>
Paw Paw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Peach, Nectarine	<i>Prunus persica</i>
Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Douglas fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>
Tree form Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea spp.</i>	Pear	<i>Pyrus spp.</i>
Apple	<i>Malus spp.</i>	Mountain Ash	<i>Sorbus spp.</i>
Crabapple	<i>Malus spp.</i>	Eastern Arborvitae	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>