



The BCLS Landscape Services Guide to Plants Usually Not Damaged By Deer

I. TREES

Deciduous - Many deciduous trees are not eaten or bothered by deer. However, deer may rub antlers against trunks and branches of many younger trees in fall, particularly Crabapples, Lindens, Japanese Tree Lilacs, Magnolias and others (protect these with tree wrapping, wire mesh cages or small post "corrals"). During winter, deer may browse buds up to about 5' above ground, especially of Crabapples, Lindens, Japanese maples, Magnolias and Witch Hazel. These varieties tolerate this fairly well, with new spring growth coming from dormant (under-the-bark) buds and undamaged higher buds.

Evergreens - White Pines and Norway Spruce are usually not eaten, except in areas with especially active deer populations such as Bedford, Katonah, and South Salem. White Spruce, Colorado Spruce and Colorado Blue Spruce are not generally eaten. Hemlocks, Arborvitae and especially Yews (*Taxus*) are vulnerable and usually need winter protection by means of wrapping or fencing.

II. SHRUBS

Deciduous - Many are not eaten or bothered. However, deer do browse buds, leaves, and tender stems of Deciduous Azaleas, Hydrangeas, Quince, Burning Bush, Corkbark, Witch Hazel, Viburnum varieties, Roses, and occasionally other varieties.

Usually safe species include:

Barberry - (<i>Berberis</i>)	Spireas
Lilac (<i>Syringa</i>)	Sweet Pepperbush*
Mockorange (<i>Philadelphus</i>)	Weigela
Privet (<i>Ligustrum</i>)*	

*Indicates species whose buds may be browsed in areas with large, active deer populations.

Evergreens -

Nearly always safe:

Japanese Andromeda - all varieties
American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)
Boxwood - all varieties

Usually safe:

William Penn Barberry
Dwarf Spruce Varieties

Vulnerable - with Large, Active Deer Population:

Azalea - all evergreen varieties
Cotoneaster - all evergreen varieties
Holly - most evergreen varieties except American (Ilex opaca)
Mountain Laurel - all evergreen varieties
Rhododendron - all evergreen varieties
Most other broadleaf evergreens

Especially vulnerable (these are the first to be damaged):

Arborvitae - all varieties
Yew (Taxus) - all varieties
Euonymus - all evergreen varieties

III. PERENNIALS

Usually safe (* indicates safest varieties):

Achillea (Yarrow)*	Herbs - most varieties
Aconitum (Monkshood)*	Iris - all varieties
Artemisia (Wormwood)*	Lavendula (Lavender)
Aruncus (Goatsbeard)	Ligularia - all varieties*
Astilbe (Goatsbeard)*	Lythrum (Loosestrife)*
Brunnera (Bugloss)*	Monarda (Bee Balm)*
Digitalis (Foxglove)*	Nepeta (Catmint)*
Euphorbia (Spurge)	Pulmonaria*
Ferns - all varieties*	Salvia (Sage)*
Grasses - most varieties*	Sempervirens (Hens & Chicks) - all varieties
Helleborus (Lenten Rose)*	

Especially vulnerable in areas with active deer populations:

Alcea (Hollyhock)	Hosta (Funkia) - all varieties
Campanula (Bellflower) - all varieties	Lillium (Hybrid Lily) - all varieties
Delphinium	Phlox
Hemerocallis (Daylily) - all varieties	Platycodon (Balloon Flower)

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PLANTINGS

Netting, burlapping or fencing provide the best protection against winter browsing of evergreens.

Taste Repellents are helpful when the deer population is light and the repellent is applied early and regularly. Deer are creatures of habit and once accustomed to feeding on your plantings, protection is difficult. Taste Repellents include Chew-Not (Thiram - appears most effective), Ropel, Hinder (Ammonium soaps of fatty acids), and BGR (an egg derivative).

Scent Repellents can also deter (but not prevent) browsing, and generally are most effective in warm weather. In very cold or snowy winter weather, scent repellents usually are less effective. Milorganite Fertilizer (safely applied to plantings every 3-4 weeks) and Magic Circle (Bonetar) are the most commonly used scent repellents for large areas. For individual plants or beds hotel-size, highly scented soaps (e.g., Irish Spring) can be hung from paper clips or in nylon stocking pouches to help repel deer with moderate success.