

# The Ultimate Guide to Deer-Resistant Plants



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# Welcome to the Ultimate Deer-Resistant Plant Guide

If you've ever brought home a "deer-resistant" plant, only to come back an hour later and find it eaten to the ground—you are not alone.

I garden in a high deer-pressure area where deer literally give birth behind my house and roam the neighborhood daily, munching on whatever they can find. Over the years, I've learned what really works—and what doesn't.

That's what inspired me to create this Ultimate Guide to Deer-Resistant Plants. Inside, you'll find **75 carefully selected plants** known to be deer-resistant—including flowering perennials, groundcovers, foliage plants, herbs, and more.

Some are ultra deer-resistant—the kind I featured in my video, 26 Ultra-Deer-Resistant Plants—so disliked by deer that you don't even need to spray them. Others fall into the "worth trying" category: they may do well in certain regions or conditions but might need extra protection, like repellents or companion planting, especially if local deer are bold.

The goal here is to give you as many options as possible, so you can experiment with confidence and find what works for your garden—without constantly losing plants to hungry deer.

Let's get you growing a beautiful, deer-resistant garden—with less frustration and more success. Happy planting!

— Cindy

Garden Unwind

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### Quick Reference Icons

Each plant listing includes helpful icons:

 Sunlight Needs – Full Sun, Part Shade, or Shade

 Hardiness Zones – USDA zones where the plant thrives

 Deer Resistance – Ultra, High, Medium

 Pollinator-Friendly

 Fragrant

US Native\* – Indicates plants with a native species or variety found in the U.S.

### Notes from Experience

Many listings include my own observations from gardening in a deer-heavy area (Zone 7, Hudson Valley). These notes can help you avoid surprises—like plants deer leave alone unless they're starving.

### Save or Print It

You can save this guide to your device, print sections, or keep it handy on your tablet while walking your garden. It's yours to use however you like—again and again.

# Understanding Deer Resistance

## No Plant is Truly Deer-Proof

Even “ultra deer-resistant” plants can get nibbled if deer are hungry enough—especially in:

- Harsh winters
- Drought years
- Overpopulated areas

## How Deer Decide What to Eat

Deer rely on smell, texture, and taste. In general, they dislike:

- Strongly scented foliage (like lavender or sage)
- Fuzzy or prickly leaves (like lamb’s ear or barberry)
- Milky or bitter sap (like milkweed)

Every herd is different. What deer avoid in one yard might get devoured in another.

## Levels of Resistance

Plants in this guide are loosely grouped based on research and my experience:

- **Ultra Resistance:** Rarely touched even in tough seasons
- **High Resistance:** Usually safe, but sometimes nibbled
- **Medium Resistance:** Nibbled in high traffic areas; repellents may be needed

Now, let’s jump into the plants—starting with the perennials that have survived my own deer-heavy garden!

# Section 1: Full-Sun Perennials

Organized by Bloom Time



# Spring (April–May)



## Foxglove

(*Digitalis purpurea*, *D. grandiflora*)

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌱 Zones: 5–9

🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra

📏 Size: 18–24" tall, mounded

🕒 Bloom Time: Summer

💧 Needs: Dry to average, well-drained soil

🐝 Pollinator Magnet, 🌸 Fragrant

### My Notes:

Although technically a biennial, foxglove often reseeds so reliably that it behaves like a perennial in many gardens. It's also toxic, so deer usually leave it alone.



## Blue Star

(*Amsonia hubrichtii*, *A. tabernaemontana*)

• ☀️ Light: Full Sun

• 🌱 Zones: 5–9

• 🦌 Deer Resistance: High

• 📏 Size: 18–24" tall, mounded

• 🕒 Bloom Time: Summer

• 💧 Needs: Dry to average, well-drained soil

• 🐝 Pollinator Magnet, 🌸 Fragrant

### My Notes:

The deer stay away from this one for the most part. Just a nibble here or there. It has gorgeous fall color.



**Baptisia**  
**(Baptisia australis)**

☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade

🌿 Zones: 3–8

🦌 Deer Resistance: Medium–High (toxic to humans, avoided by deer)

📏 Size: ~3–4 ft tall and wide (1–1.5 m)

🕒 Bloom Time: Mid to Late Spring (April–June)

💧 Needs: Well-drained, average to dry soil; drought tolerant once established

🐝 Pollinator Friendly (attracts bees; host for some Lepidoptera larvae)

US Native

My Notes:

A long-lived native favorite. Its deep taproot makes it extremely drought tolerant.



**Yarrow**  
**(Achillea millefolium)**

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌿 Zones: 3–9

🦌 Deer Resistance: Medium (aromatic, bitter foliage deters browsing)

📏 Size: 18–36" tall, spreading clumps

🕒 Bloom Time: Early Summer–Fall (reblooms with deadheading)

💧 Needs: Well-drained, lean soil; drought tolerant

🐝 Pollinator Magnet (bees, butterflies) 🌸 Flat-topped clusters in many colors.

US Native

My Notes:

The deer munch on this one in the Spring, pruning it so it stays compact and bushy, leaving me flowers later in the season.



**Hardy Salvia**  
**(*Salvia nemorosa*, *S. pratensis*)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun
- 🌿 Zones: ~4–8 (common range for these species)
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
- 📏 Size: About 1–3 ft tall (depends on cultivar)
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Early Summer into Mid-Summer (reblooms with deadheading)
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; moderately drought tolerant
- 🐝 Pollinator Magnet (excellent for bees, butterflies)

My Notes:

Deadheading keeps it fresh and compact. Deer leave this one alone in my garden.



**Bearded Iris**  
**(*Iris germanica* hybrids)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun
- 🌿 Zones: 3–9
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: High
- 📏 Size: 2–3 ft tall, 1–2 ft wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Late Spring (May–June)
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; rhizomes dislike excess moisture
- 🌸 Unique Feature: Bold, frilled flowers in almost every color
- 🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Bees, especially bumblebees

My Notes:

My bearded iris only occasionally get nibbled by in early Spring. A spray with deer repellent keeps them protected until the deer lose interest late in the season.



### **Siberian Iris (*Iris sibirica*)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
- 🌿 Zones: 3–9
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: High
- 📏 Size: 2–4 ft tall, 1–2 ft wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Late Spring–Early Summer (May–June, after bearded iris)
- 💧 Needs: Moist, rich soil; tolerates heavier clay better than bearded iris
- 🌸 Unique Feature: Graceful, grassy foliage with elegant blooms in blue, purple, or white
- 🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Bees, butterflies

#### My Notes:

They're tougher and lower-maintenance than bearded iris. Deer leave them alone for the most part, with the occasional nibble.

## **Early Summer (June)**



### **Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia* / *Salvia yangii*)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun
- 🌿 Zones: 4–9
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
- 📏 Size: 3–4 ft tall and wide;
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Mid-Summer to Fall (June–October)
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; drought-tolerant once established
- 🐝 Pollinator Magnet (bees, butterflies, hummingbirds)

#### My Notes:

Silvery foliage, long-lasting lavender blooms, and deer never touch it. No need for repellents. 9



**Anise Hyssop**  
**(*Agastache foeniculum*)**

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌿 Zones: 4–9

🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra

📏 Size: 2–4 ft tall, 1–2 ft wide

🕒 Bloom Time: Early Summer–Fall (very long bloom period)

💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; drought tolerant

🐝 Pollinator Powerhouse (bees, butterflies, hummingbirds)

🌸 Fragrant purple spikes

US Native

**My Notes:**

One of my absolute pollinator favorites—hummingbirds especially. Deer completely ignore it, as it has a very strong anise scent.



**Catmint**  
**(*Nepeta* spp.)**

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌿 Zones: 3–8

🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra

📏 Size: 12–36 inches tall, 12–36 inches wide

🕒 Bloom Time: Late Spring–Fall

💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; drought-tolerant

🐝 Pollinator Powerhouse: Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds

🌸 Unique Feature: Aromatic gray-green foliage with spikes of lavender-blue flowers

**My Notes:**

Catmint is a great early bloomer that, as the name suggests, has a strong scent so the deer stay away.



## Coreopsis

### (*Coreopsis verticillata*, *C. grandiflora*)

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌿 Zones: 4–9

🦌 Deer Resistance: High

📏 Size: 12–24" tall, spreading habit

🕒 Bloom Time: Early Summer–Fall (long bloom period)

💧 Needs: Well-drained, average to dry soil; drought tolerant

🐝 Pollinator Friendly (bees, butterflies)

US Native

#### My Notes:

Great for sunny borders or meadows. Some hybrids are shorter-lived but bloom like crazy. In my garden, deer rarely touch it, but I do use repellent on very young plants just in case.



## Gaillardia

### (*Gaillardia* × *grandiflora*, hybrids)

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌿 Zones: 3–9

🦌 Deer Resistance: High

📏 Size: 18–24" tall, spreading clumps

🕒 Bloom Time: Early Summer–Frost

💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; thrives in poor, dry soils

🐝 Pollinator Friendly (bees, butterflies)

🌸 Red, orange, and yellow bicolor blooms

US Native

#### My Notes:

They can be short-lived perennials, but deer dislike them. Perfect for hot, dry spots.



## Penstemon

**(*P. digitalis*, *P. barbatus*, hybrids)**

☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade

🌿 Zones: 3–8 (varies by species)

🦌 Deer Resistance: Medium–High (tubular, slightly bitter foliage, usually avoided)

📏 Size: 2–4 ft tall depending on species

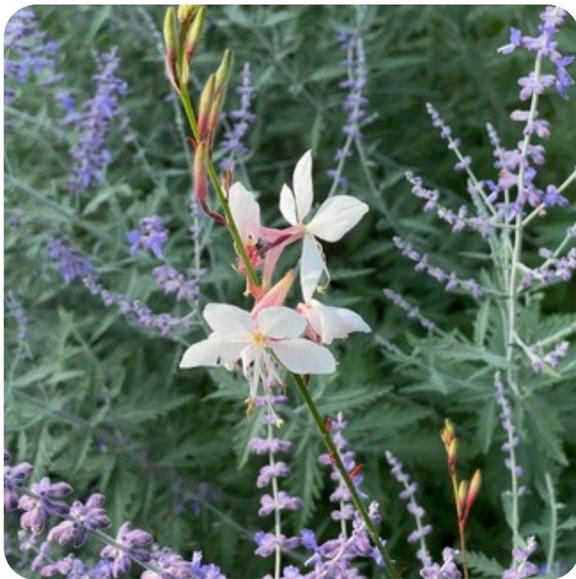
🕒 Bloom Time: Early Summer (June–July)

💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; drought tolerant once established

🐝 Pollinator Magnet (especially hummingbirds and bees) 🌸 Tubular blooms in red, purple, white, pink  
US Native

My Notes:

Great for hummingbirds. Deer generally ignore it, though I've had an occasional nibble on tender new growth.



## Gaura

**(*Oenothera lindheimeri*, syn. *Gaura lindheimeri*)**

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌿 Zones: 5–9

🦌 Deer Resistance: Medium–High (tough stems and airy growth not appealing)

📏 Size: 2–4 ft tall, 2–3 ft wide

🕒 Bloom Time: Summer–Fall (June–October)

💧 Needs: Well-drained, sandy or rocky soil; drought tolerant

🌸 Unique Feature: Airy sprays of pink or white butterfly-like flowers that dance in the breeze

🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Bees, butterflies  
US Native

My Notes:

Deer tend to munch mine in spring but leave it alone the rest of the season. It blooms until frost.



## Dusty Miller

(*Jacobaea maritima*, syn. *Senecio cineraria*)

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌿 Zones: 7–10 (grown as annual in colder zones)

🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra

📏 Size: 8–18" tall, 12–24" wide

🕒 Bloom Time: Summer (grown mainly for foliage)

💧 Needs: Well-drained, moderately dry soil

🌸 Unique Feature: Silver-white foliage adds contrast and brightness

🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Yellow flowers attract pollinators if not pinched

### My Notes:

Deer don't touch Dusty Miller in my garden. It's a great addition to the garden with its striking silver foliage.



## Liatris

(*Liatris spicata* and related species)

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌿 Zones: 3–9

🦌 Deer Resistance: High

📏 Size: 2–4 ft tall, 1–2 ft wide

🕒 Bloom Time: Mid–Late Summer (July–September)

💧 Needs: Average to dry, well-drained soil

🌸 Unique Feature: Spikes of purple (sometimes white) flowers that bloom top-down

🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds

US Native

### My Notes:

Pollinators absolutely love Liatris. Deer will go for the buds so I give them a spray with deer repellent when they are still green and they leave the flowers alone after that.



### **Feverfew**

#### **(*Tanacetum parthenium*)**

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌿 Zones: 5–9 (self-seeding annual/biennial in colder zones)

🦌 Deer Resistance: High (strong fragrance deters browsing)

📏 Size: 18–24" tall, 12–18" wide

🕒 Bloom Time: Early–Mid Summer (June–July)

💧 Needs: Average, well-drained soil

🌸 Unique Feature: Masses of small, daisy-like white and yellow blooms

🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Attracts bees and beneficial insects

#### **My Notes:**

Deer avoid feverfew thanks to its bitter scent. It reseeds easily, so you may find baby plants popping up in paths and cracks—but it's charming in bouquets.

## **Mid to Late Summer (July–August)**



### **Hummingbird Mint**

#### **(*Agastache* spp.)**

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌿 Zones: 5–10 (varies by species)

🦌 Deer Resistance: High

📏 Size: 18–36" tall, upright clumps

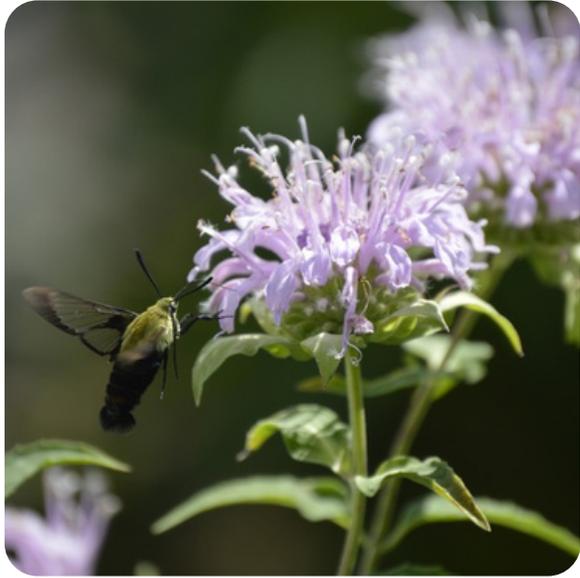
🕒 Bloom Time: Summer–Fall

💧 Needs: Dry to average, well-drained soil

🐝 Pollinator Magnet, 🌸 Fragrant Foliage

US Native

**My Notes:** Deer never touch mine. Hummingbirds swarm the flowers well into fall.



### **Bee Balm**

**(*Monarda didyma*, *M. fistulosa*)**

☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade

🌱 Zones: 4–9

🦌 Deer Resistance: Moderate–High

📏 Size: 24–48" tall, spreading clumps

🕒 Bloom Time: Summer

💧 Needs: Moist, rich soil

🐝 Pollinator Magnet, 🌸 Fragrant

US Native

My Notes: Bees and hummingbirds can't get enough, but powdery mildew can be a challenge with the native species. Cultivars are bred to be powdery mildew resistant, but the natives get the most pollinator action.



### **Purple Coneflower**

**(*Echinacea purpurea*)**

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌱 Zones: 3–9

🦌 Deer Resistance: High

📏 Size: 24–36" tall, upright

🕒 Bloom Time: Summer–Fall

💧 Needs: Average, drought-tolerant once established

🐝 Pollinator Magnet

US Native

My Notes: Deer like to nibble on them in the Spring and early summer, and leave them mostly alone by late summer. Deer repellent works well on them.



### **Cutleaf Coneflower (Rudbeckia Nitida)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun
  - 🌿 Zones: 3–9
  - 🦌 Deer Resistance: High
  - 📏 Size: 84" tall, spreading clumps
  - 🕒 Bloom Time: Summer–Fall
  - 💧 Needs: Average, tolerates clay and poor soils
  - 🐝 Pollinator Magnet
- US Native

My Notes: The deer mostly leave these alone. They add height to the garden.



### **Cherokee Sunset Rudbeckia (Rudbeckia hirta 'Cherokee Sunset')**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
- 🌿 Zones: 5–9 (grown as annual in colder zones)
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: High (fuzzy foliage and stems deter browsing)
- 📏 Size: 24–30" tall, 12–18" wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Mid-Summer–Fall (July–October)
- 💧 Needs: Average, well-drained soil; drought tolerant once established
- 🌸 Unique Feature: Large, semi-double to fully double blooms in warm shades (orange, gold, bronze, mahogany)
- 🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Attracts bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects

My Notes:

I love this variety for its dramatic, sunset-colored blooms. In my experience, deer will taste test this in Spring, but tend to leave it alone later in the season. Deer Repellent works well on these.



### Allium (clumping)

(*Allium tanguticum*, *A. senescens*)

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌿 Zones: 4–9

🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra (onion family—deer and rabbits avoid)

📏 Size: 12–24" tall, 6–12" wide

🕒 Bloom Time: Late Spring–Summer (depending on species)

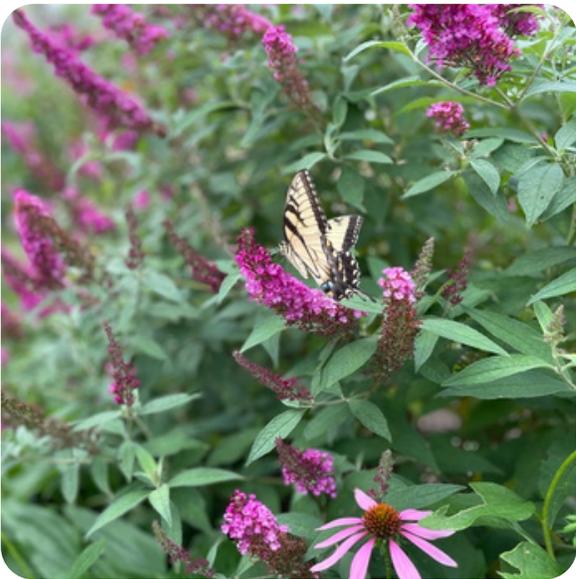
💧 Needs: Average, well-drained soil; drought tolerant once established

🐝 Pollinator Friendly (especially bees) 🌸

Ornamental globes in purple/blue tones

My Notes:

A tidy clumping habit makes these great for edging. My deer never touch them, and they multiply slowly into nice colonies.



### Butterfly Bush

(*Buddleja davidii*, hybrids)

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌿 Zones: 5–9 (some hardy to Zone 4)

🦌 Deer Resistance: High

📏 Size: 5–10' tall, arching shrub

🕒 Bloom Time: Summer–Fall

💧 Needs: Well-drained soil, drought tolerant

🦋 Butterfly Magnet, 🌸 Fragrant

(invasive in some states) Check with your local cooperative extension office if unsure.

My Notes: I keep mine deadheaded to prolong blooms. Deer never bother it, and butterflies love it.

**Word of Caution: Some areas consider Butterfly Bush invasive; planting sterile or non-invasive cultivars helps protect local ecosystems.**



**Caryopteris**  
**(Caryopteris x clandonensis)**

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌿 Zones: 5–9

🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra

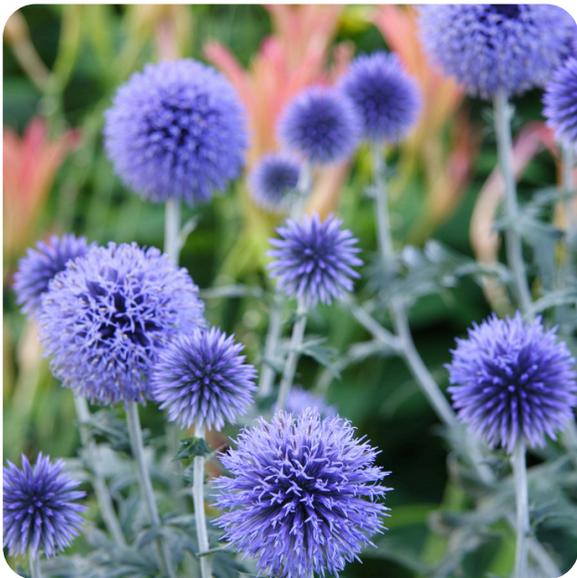
📏 Size: 24–36" tall, 24–36" wide

🕒 Bloom Time: Late Summer–Fall

💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; drought tolerant once established

🐝 Pollinator Magnet, 🌸 Blue-purple flowers

My Notes: Deer leave it alone entirely. Late-summer blooms brighten borders when many other perennials fade. Prune lightly in spring for compact growth.



**Globe Thistle**  
**(Echinops ritro)**

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌿 Zones: 3–8

🦌 Deer Resistance: High

📏 Size: 24–48" tall, 18–24" wide

🕒 Bloom Time: Mid–Late Summer

💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; tolerates poor, dry conditions

🐝 Pollinator Magnet, 🌸 Silvery-blue spiny flower globes

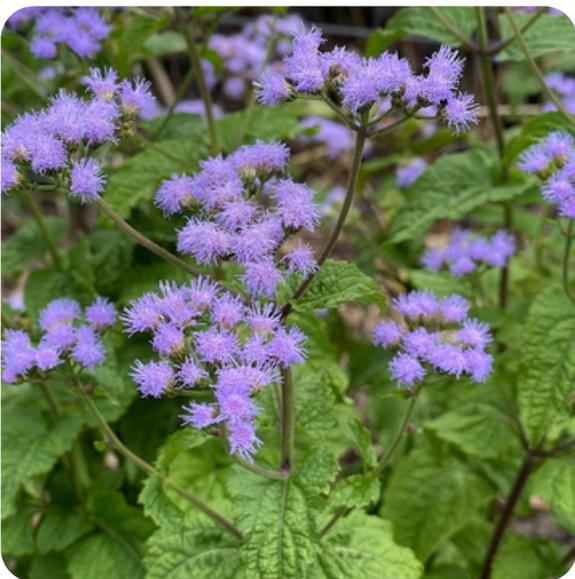
My Notes: Architectural and long-lasting in the garden. Deer tend to ignore it, and it pairs beautifully with gold and yellow flowers.



**Joe Pye Weed**  
**(Eutrochium purpureum)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
- 🌿 Zones: 4–9
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: High
- 📏 Size: 4–7' tall, 2–4' wide, upright clump
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Late Summer–Fall
- 💧 Needs: Moist, rich soil; tolerates clay and wet spots
- 🐝 Pollinator Magnet (bees, butterflies)
- US Native

My Notes: Tall and dramatic—great for the back of borders or naturalized areas. It thrives in damp ground. Deer rarely bother mine, though they may nibble new spring shoots if food is scarce.



**Hardy Ageratum**  
**(Conoclinium coelestinum)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
- 🌿 Zones: 5–9
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: High (fuzzy, aromatic foliage deters browsing)
- 📏 Size: 24–36" tall, 18–24" wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Late Summer–Fall (August–October)
- 💧 Needs: Average to moist, well-drained soil
- 🌸 Unique Feature: Clouds of fluffy, mist-blue flowers late in the season
- 🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Excellent for bees, butterflies, and late-season pollinators
- US Native

My Notes:

Hardy Ageratum spreads by rhizomes and can form colonies—perfect for naturalized areas or filling in a pollinator garden.

# Fall (September–October)



## Sedum / Stonecrop

(*Hylotelephium spectabile*, *H. telephium*)

☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade

🌱 Zones: 3–9

🦌 Deer Resistance: Medium

📏 Size: 12–36" tall, spreading 18–36"

🕒 Bloom Time: Fall (September–October)

💧 Needs: Dry to average, well-drained soil; succulent foliage tolerates drought

🐝 Pollinator Magnet,

US Native

My Notes: Excellent late-season color for pollinators. Deer sometimes nibble it. Its worth giving it a spray with deer repellent in high pressure areas.



## Yucca

(*Yucca filamentosa*)

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌱 Zones: 4–10

🦌 Deer Resistance: High

📏 Size: 2–4 ft tall, 2–4 ft wide; flower stalks 6–8 ft

🕒 Bloom Time: Early Fall (varies by region)

💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; drought tolerant

🌸 Architectural white flower spikes, 🦋 Pollinator friendly

US Native

My Notes: Evergreen, spiky foliage adds texture year-round. Deer avoid completely. Slow to spread but very low maintenance.



**Miscanthus**

## Ornamental Grasses

(Various species: Miscanthus, Panicum, Calamagrostis, Festuca, etc.)

- ☀ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
  - 🌱 Zones: 4–9 (species-dependent)
  - 🦌 Deer Resistance: High
  - 📏 Size: 6"–8' tall, 12"–5' wide (varies by species)
  - 🕒 Bloom Time: Spring–Fall (depending on species)
  - 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; moderate to low moisture
- Many US Natives Available

My Notes: Includes clumping and upright grasses with feathery plumes or colorful foliage; excellent for borders, naturalistic plantings, or containers. Adds movement, texture, and year-round interest. Deer generally avoid.



**Lucerne Blue-Eyed Grass**



**Blue Fescue**

# Section 2: Shade-Loving Perennials



# Early Bloomers (Late Winter – Early Spring)



## Astilbe (*Astilbe* spp.)

- ☀️ Light: Full Shade to Part Shade
- 🌿 Zones: 3–8
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Medium
- 📏 Size: 18–36" tall, 18–24" wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Late Spring–Summer
- 💧 Needs: Moist soil
- 🌸 Plume-like flowers in pink, white, or red

My Notes: Elegant plumes add vertical interest. Divide every few years to maintain vigor. Spray with deer repellent to ensure you get to see the blooms.



## Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*)

- ☀️ Light: Full to Part Shade
- 🌿 Zones: 3–9
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: High
- 📏 Size: 24–36" tall, 24–36" wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Spring
- 💧 Needs: Moist, well-drained soil
- 🌸 Heart-shaped pink or white flowers

My Notes: Deer may nibble occasionally but rarely damage plant. Romantic blooms brighten cool shade.



**Brunnera**  
**(*Brunnera macrophylla*)**

- ☀️ Light: Part Shade to Full Shade
- 🌿 Zones: 3–8
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
- 📏 Size: 12–16" tall, 18–24" wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Early Spring
- 💧 Needs: Moist, fertile soil
- 🌸 Tiny blue flowers, silvery heart-shaped foliage,

My Notes: Deer leave it alone. Silvery leaves provide texture and soft spring color.



**Goatsbeard (*Aruncus dioicus*)**

- ☀️ Light: Part Shade
- 🌿 Zones: 4–8
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
- 📏 Size: 48–72" tall, 36–72" wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Late Spring–Early Summer
- 💧 Needs: Moist, fertile soil
- 🌸 Creamy-white plume-like flowers

US Native

My Notes: Dramatic vertical interest; deer avoid completely. Dwarf cultivars available for smaller spaces.



## Hellebore

### (*Helleborus* spp.) — Lenten Rose

☀️ Light: Full Shade to Part Shade

🌿 Zones: 4–9

🦌 Deer Resistance: High

📏 Size: 12–18" tall, 18–24" wide

🕒 Bloom Time: Late Winter–Early Spring

💧 Needs: Rich, moist, well-drained soil

🌸 Soft green foliage

My Notes: Early bloom brightens shady beds. Deer generally avoid them, likely due to slight toxicity. Evergreen foliage adds interest all season.



## Ligularia

(*Ligularia dentata*, *L. przewalskii*, and hybrids)

☀️ Light: Part Shade to Full Shade

🌿 Zones: 4–8

🦌 Deer Resistance: High (bitter-tasting foliage discourages browsing)

📏 Size: 2–4' tall, 2–3' wide

🕒 Bloom Time: Mid–Late Summer (July–September)

💧 Needs: Consistently moist, rich soil

🌸 Unique Feature: Bold foliage (often heart-shaped or serrated) with striking spikes or clusters of yellow-orange blooms

🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Attracts bees and butterflies

My Notes:

Its dramatic foliage is as showy as its flowers, and deer tend to leave it alone. It does best in consistently damp soil—wilts quickly if it dries out.



## Lungwort

**(Pulmonaria spp.)**

☀️ Light: Part Shade

🌿 Zones: 3–8

🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra

📏 Size: 12–18" tall, 18–24" wide

🕒 Bloom Time: Early Spring

💧 Needs: Moist, rich soil

🌸 Spotted leaves, pink & blue flowers, 🐝 Pollinator Friendly

My Notes: Deer ignore foliage. Excellent for shady borders; flowers are charming but foliage is the star.



## Peony

**(Paeonia spp.)**

☀️ Light: Part Sun to Part Shade

🌿 Zones: 3–8

🦌 Deer Resistance: High (may need spray in high-pressure areas)

📏 Size: 24–36" tall, 24–36" wide

🕒 Bloom Time: Late Spring

💧 Needs: Well-drained soil, moderate moisture

🌸 Large, fragrant blooms

My Notes: Classic perennial for borders. Deer usually leave them alone in my garden with only an occasional nibble.

# Foliage Plants



## Fern

### Various Cultivars

- ☀️ Light: Full Shade
  - 🌿 Zones: 3-7 (varies by species)
  - 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
  - 📏 Size: 24-72" tall, 24-60" wide
  - 🕒 Bloom Time: Foliage focus (spring fronds)
  - 💧 Needs: Moist, humus-rich soil
  - 🌸 Texture-rich foliage, evergreen
- US Native options

My Notes: Ideal for shade texture and woodland gardens. Deer leave them alone.



## Hakonechloa / Japanese Forest Grass (*Hakonechloa macra*)

- ☀️ Light: Part Shade to Shade
- 🌿 Zones: 5-9
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
- 📏 Size: 12-24" tall, 18-24" wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Late Summer (foliage is primary interest)
- 💧 Needs: Moist, well-drained soil

My Notes: Graceful, arching foliage often variegated or golden; perfect for woodland gardens, borders, or containers. Deer leave it alone.

# Section 3: Ground Covers





### **Bugleweed (Ajuga reptans)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
- 🌿 Zones: 3–9
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: High (bitter-tasting foliage)
- 📏 Size: 4–8" tall, spreads indefinitely
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Late Spring–Early Summer (May–June)
- 💧 Needs: Average to moist, well-drained soil; tolerates clay
- 🌸 Unique Feature: Low mats of bronze, purple, or variegated leaves with blue flower spikes
- 🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Attracts bees and butterflies

My Notes: Ajuga makes a dense carpet that deer rarely touch. It spreads quickly, so give it space. The blue flower spikes are a spring bonus. It pairs well with bleeding hearts, as they bloom at the same time.



### **Creeping Jenny (Lysimachia nummularia)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
- 🌿 Zones: 3–9
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: High
- 📏 Size: 2–4" tall, spreading groundcover
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Late Spring–Early Summer (yellow blooms, not the main feature)
- 💧 Needs: Prefers moist soil; tolerates wet areas
- 🌸 Unique Feature: Chartreuse or golden trailing foliage
- 🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Small yellow flowers attract bees

My Notes: Creeping Jenny brightens shady or damp spots with its golden foliage. I've never seen deer eat it. Best in contained areas or pots, as it runs.



**Dead Nettle**  
**(*Lamium maculatum*)**

- ☀️ Light: Part Shade to Shade (tolerates some sun)
- 🌿 Zones: 3–8
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: High (aromatic, fuzzy leaves deter browsing)
- 📏 Size: 6–12" tall, spreading groundcover
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Spring–Summer (May–July, sporadic blooms later)
- 💧 Needs: Average to moist, well-drained soil
- 🌸 Unique Feature: Silver-variegated foliage with pink, purple, or white flowers
- 🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Attracts bees and hummingbirds

My Notes: Lamium is a cheerful filler for shade with silver leaves and bright flowers. Deer leave it alone. It spreads politely in my experience.



**Lamb's Ear**  
**(*Stachys byzantina*)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
- 🌿 Zones: 4–8
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: High (fuzzy, tough foliage deters browsing)
- 📏 Size: 6–12" tall, 12–18" wide; spreads by clumping
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Late Spring–Summer (May–July; purple flower spikes)
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; drought tolerant once established
- 🌸 Unique Feature: Silvery, velvety foliage; children love the soft leaves
- 🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Spikes attract bees when allowed to bloom

My Notes: Deer ignore Lamb's Ear completely. The foliage is the main show, though the purple flower spikes add interest.

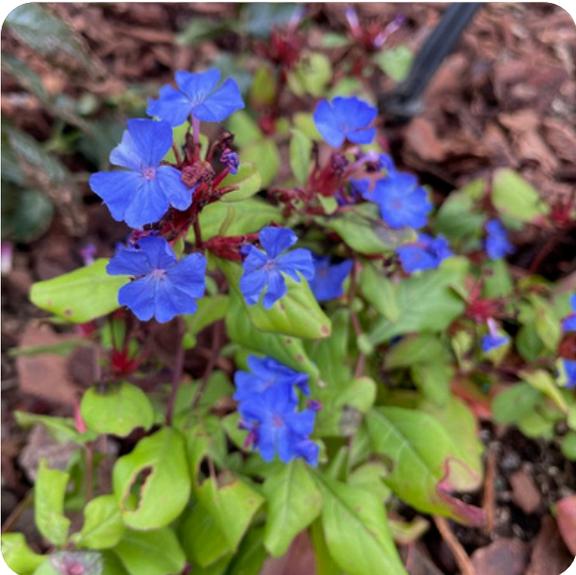


## Pachysandra

### (*Pachysandra terminalis* — Japanese spurge)

- ☀️ Light: Part Shade to Shade
- 🌿 Zones: 4–9
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: High (tough, bitter foliage)
- 📏 Size: 6–12" tall, spreading groundcover
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Spring (April–May; small white flowers)
- 💧 Needs: Moist, well-drained soil; drought tolerant once established
- 🌸 Unique Feature: Evergreen carpet-forming groundcover for shade
- 🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Flowers are modest, lightly fragrant

My Notes: Pachysandra is a classic evergreen groundcover for deep shade.



## Hardy Plumbago

### (*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*)

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
- 🌿 Zones: 5–9
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: High
- 📏 Size: 6–12" tall, spreads 12–18" wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Late Summer to Fall
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; drought-tolerant once established
- 🌸 Unique Feature: True blue flowers followed by red to burgundy fall foliage
- 🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Attracts bees and butterflies

My Notes:

Spreading ground cover with sky-blue flowers; tolerates sun to partial shade. Great for borders, underplanting, or sunny-to-part-shade areas. Deer mostly ignore it.

# Section 4: Annuals





**Castor Bean**  
**(*Ricinus communis*)**

- ☀ Light: Full Sun
- 🌱 Zones: 9–11 (grown as annual elsewhere)
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra (toxic leaves and seeds deter browsing)
- 📏 Size: 5–10 ft tall, 3–5 ft wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Summer–Fall (July–October)
- 💧 Needs: Average to rich, well-drained soil; moderate moisture
- 🌸 Unique Feature: Dramatic, tropical-looking foliage in green, red, or bronze tones with spiky seed pods
- 🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Attracts some bees; not a major nectar source

My Notes: Castor bean adds instant tropical drama to borders or as a focal point. Deer and other animals avoid it due to its high toxicity. All parts—especially the seeds—are poisonous if ingested.



**Cleome / Spider Flower**  
**(*Cleome hassleriana*)**

- ☀ Light: Full Sun
- 🌱 Zones: 10–11 (grown as annual elsewhere)
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra (spiny stems, strong scent deter browsing)
- 📏 Size: 3–5 ft tall, 1–2 ft wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Summer–Fall (July–October)
- 💧 Needs: Average, well-drained soil; drought tolerant
- 🌸 Unique Feature: Spidery pink, white, or lavender flowers with long seedpods
- 🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds

My Notes: Deer avoid Cleome because of its prickly stems and smell. It reseeds freely and provides bold, airy color all summer.



## Cosmos

### (*Cosmos bipinnatus*, *C. sulphureus*)

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun
- 🌱 Zones: 2–11 (grown as annual)
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: High (fine-textured foliage unappealing)
- 📏 Size: 2–5 ft tall, 1–2 ft wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Summer–Frost (June–October)
- 💧 Needs: Poor to average, well-drained soil; drought tolerant
- 🌸 Unique Feature: Airy, ferny foliage with daisy-like blooms in pink, white, orange, yellow
- 🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Bees, butterflies, hoverflies

My Notes: Cosmos are effortless, deer-resistant, and bloom nonstop until frost. They reseed freely and thrive in poor soil. Great for pollinator gardens and cutting.



## Elephant Ear

### (*Alocasia* spp.), (*Colocasia esculenta* and hybrids)

- ☀️ Light: Part Shade to Shade (tolerates morning sun)
- 🌱 Zones: 8–11 (grown as annual/tender bulb elsewhere)
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: High (coarse, toxic foliage unappealing)
- 📏 Size: 2–6 ft tall, 2–4 ft wide (depending on species)
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Grown for foliage; flowers insignificant
- 💧 Needs: Moist, rich, well-drained soil; regular watering
- 🌸 Unique Feature: Dramatic, glossy, arrow-shaped leaves

My Notes: Alocasia leaves are striking but deer rarely touch them. They love warmth and moisture. In colder zones, corms can be lifted and stored, or they can be treated as a houseplant in winter.

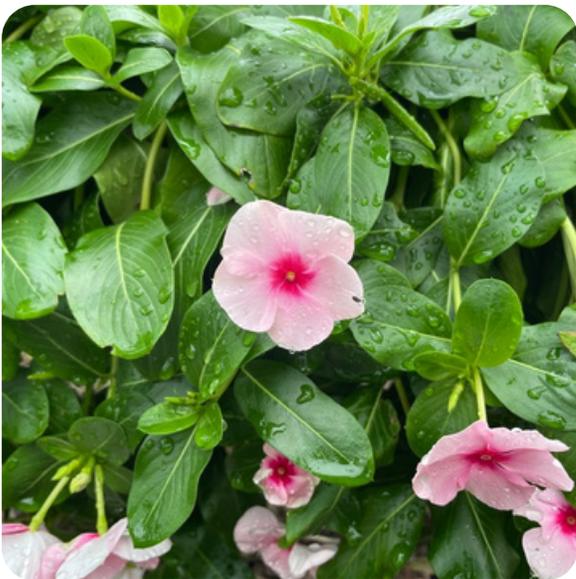


**Lantana**  
**(*Lantana camara*)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun
- 🌱 Zones: 8–11 (grown as annual elsewhere)
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
- 📏 Size: 2–3 ft tall, 2–4 ft wide (spreading habit)
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Summer–Frost (June–October)
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; drought and heat tolerant
- 🌸 Unique Feature: Clusters of multicolored flowers changing shades with age
- 🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Attracts bees, butterflies, hummingbirds

**My Notes:**

Lantana is tough, heat-loving, and never bothered by deer. It's a butterfly magnet. Treat as an annual in cold zones, but perennial in warm climates.



**Vinca / Madagascar Periwinkle**  
**(*Catharanthus roseus*)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
- 🌱 Zones: 9–11 (grown as annual elsewhere)
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra (alkaloid-rich foliage not palatable)
- 📏 Size: 12–18" tall, 12–18" wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Summer–Frost (June–October)
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; drought tolerant once established
- 🌸 Unique Feature: Glossy foliage with nonstop pink, red, white, or lavender flowers
- 🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Attracts butterflies

**My Notes:**

Vinca is one of the most carefree, deer-proof bedding plants. It shrugs off heat and drought, flowering nonstop until frost.

# Section 5: Deer Resistant Bulbs





## Daffodils

### (*Narcissus* spp.)

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
- 🌿 Zones: 3–9
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
- 📏 Size: 12–20" tall, 4–6" wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Early–Mid Spring
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; moderate moisture
- 🌸 Bright, trumpet-shaped flowers

My Notes: Deer avoid all parts of this bulb. Perfect for naturalizing, borders, or mass planting. Adds early spring color before most perennials wake up.



## Muscari (Grape Hyacinth)

### (*Muscari armeniacum*)

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
- 🌿 Zones: 4–8
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: High
- 📏 Size: 6–10" tall, 3–4" wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Mid Spring
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil
- 🌸 Dense clusters of blue, grape-like flowers

My Notes: Deer generally ignore this small bulb. Excellent for edging, rock gardens, or under deciduous trees. Naturalizes easily.



**Gladiolus**  
**(Gladiolus spp.)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun
- 🌱 Zones: 7–10 (bulbs can be lifted in colder zones)
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: High
- 📏 Size: 24–48" tall, 2–4" wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Summer
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained, fertile soil; moderate watering
- 🌸 Tall spikes of colorful flowers

My Notes: Deer usually leave these alone, making them ideal for dramatic summer color.



**Allium**  
**(Allium spp.)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun
- 🌱 Zones: 3–9
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
- 📏 Size: 12–36" tall, 4–12" wide (varies by species)
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Late Spring–Early Summer
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; moderate moisture
- 🌸 Globe-like flower heads in purple, white, or pink

My Notes: Deer avoid these strongly scented bulbs. Works well in mixed borders, pollinator gardens, or as striking architectural plants.

# Section 6: Shrubs and Trees



# Evergreen



## Barberry (*Berberis* spp.)

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
- 🌱 Zones: 4–8
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
- 📏 Size: 2–8' tall, 3–6' wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Spring
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; moderate moisture

My Notes: Thorny foliage; attractive berries; deer generally avoid.



## Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*)

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun
  - 🌱 Zones: 2–7
  - 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
  - 📏 Size: 24"–60' tall, (varies by species)
  - 🕒 Bloom Time: N/A (foliage interest)
  - 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; moderate moisture
- US Native

My Notes: Silvery-blue needles; excellent specimen or windbreak tree; deer leave it alone.



## Boxwood

### (*Buxus* spp.)

☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade

🌿 Zones: 5–9

🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra

📏 Size: 2–12' tall, 2–8' wide (varies by species)

🕒 Bloom Time: Spring (flowers minor; foliage primary interest)

💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; moderate moisture

My Notes: Dense evergreen foliage; excellent for hedges, borders, and topiary. Deer generally avoid.



## Golden Mop False Cypress

### (*Chamaecyparis pisifera*)

☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade

🌿 Zones: 4–8

🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra

📏 Size: 3–6' tall, 3–6' wide

🕒 Bloom Time: N/A (foliage interest)

💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; moderate moisture

My Notes: Soft, golden thread-like foliage; excellent accent plant. Mine have never been nibbled.



### **Goshiki False Holly (*Osmanthus heterophyllus*)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
- 🌿 Zones: 6–9
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
- 📏 Size: 6–10' tall, 6–10' wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Fall (small white flowers)
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; moderate moisture

My Notes: Spiny, holly-like leaves; fragrant flowers; deer-resistant. I find birds nesting in mine frequently.



### **Holly (*Ilex* spp.)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
  - 🌿 Zones: 5–9 (varies by species/cultivar)
  - 🦌 Deer Resistance: High (spiny leaves deter browsing)
  - 📏 Size: 3–15 ft tall, 3–10 ft wide (depending on species/cultivar)
  - 🕒 Bloom Time: Spring (small, inconspicuous flowers)
  - 💧 Needs: Moist, well-drained soil; tolerates clay and drought once established
  - 🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Flowers attract bees; berries feed birds
- US Native

My Notes:  
Deer generally avoid holly because of the spiny leaves. Young tender plants may need protection. The berries provide winter interest and wildlife food, but choose a male and female if you want berries.



## Juniper (*Juniperus* spp.)

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌿 Zones: 3–9

🦌 Deer Resistance: High

📏 Size: 1–30' tall, 2–12' wide (species dependent)

🕒 Bloom Time: Spring (flowers minor)

💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; drought tolerant

US Native options

My Notes: Wide variety of shapes and textures; berries attract birds but not deer. They leave this one alone.



## White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

☀️ Light: Full Sun

🌿 Zones: 3–8

🦌 Deer Resistance: Moderate to High (needles are less palatable, but deer may browse young growth)

📏 Size: 50–80' tall, 20–40' wide (smaller with pruning or in cultivated forms)

🕒 Bloom Time: Evergreen (year-round interest)

💧 Needs: Average, well-drained soil; tolerates sandy soil

🌸 Unique Feature: Soft, blue-green needles in bundles of five; airy, graceful texture

US Native

My Notes:

Eastern White Pine provides shelter for birds and wildlife while remaining fairly deer-resistant once established. Ornamental cultivars like 'Pendula' (Weeping White Pine) offer a dramatic, cascading form for smaller landscapes.

# Deciduous



## Ninebark

### (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)

☀ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade

🌿 Zones: 3-7

🦌 Deer Resistance: Medium (coarse foliage and bitter taste)

📏 Size: 3-10 ft tall, 3-8 ft wide (depending on cultivar)

🕒 Bloom Time: Late Spring–Early Summer (May–June)

💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; tolerates drought and clay

🐝 Pollinator Friendly: Flowers attract bees and butterflies

US Native Options

### My Notes:

Ninebark is low-maintenance, hardy, and fairly resistant to deer. You will need to spray it in high deer pressure areas.



## Smokebush

### (*Cotinus coggygria*)

☀ Light: Full Sun

🌿 Zones: 4-8

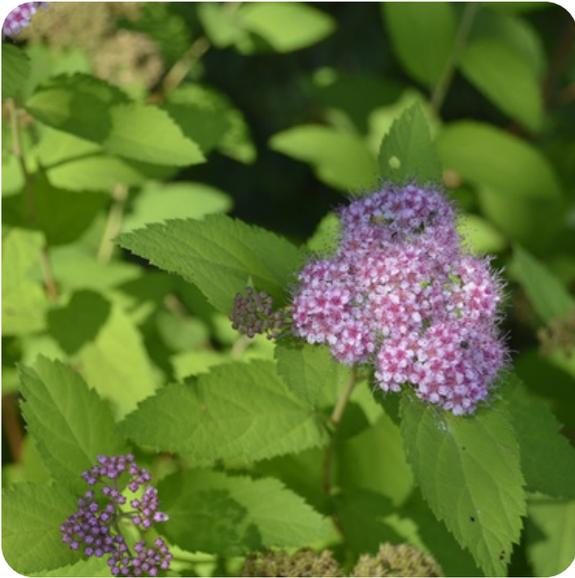
🦌 Deer Resistance: High

📏 Size: 6-15' tall, 6-15' wide

🕒 Bloom Time: Late Spring–Early Summer

💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; drought tolerant

My Notes: Showy, smoky pink plumes; striking foliage color. Deer leave it alone until fall, it make get a little nibbled.



### **Spirea (Spiraea spp.)**

- ☀ Light: Full Sun
- 🌱 Zones: 3–8
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Medium-High
- 📏 Size: 2–6' tall, 3–6' wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Late Spring–Summer
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; moderate moisture

My Notes: Deer like to eat the blooms sometimes so it is worth giving them a spray with deer repellent, although some cultivars are grown for the foliage interest like the one in the photo.



### **Weigela (Weigela spp.)**

- ☀ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
- 🌱 Zones: 4–8
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Medium-High
- 📏 Size: 3–10' tall, 3–10' wide (varies by cultivar)
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Late Spring–Summer
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; moderate moisture

My Notes: The deer may go after the blooms, but they usually leave the showy foliage alone.

# Section 7: Herbs





**Lavender**  
**(*Lavandula angustifolia*)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun
- 🌿 Zones: 5–9 (some cultivars hardy to Zone 4)
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
- 📏 Size: 12–30" tall, 18–36" wide depending on type
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Early–Mid Summer; some rebloom in late summer
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained, slightly alkaline soil
- 🐝 Pollinator Friendly (bees, butterflies) 🌸 Fragrant purple spikes

**My Notes:**

A must for sunny borders. Needs excellent drainage in winter. Never browsed in my garden—even when deer pressure is high.



**Lemon Balm**  
**(*Melissa officinalis*)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
- 🌿 Zones: 4–9
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
- 📏 Size: 1–2' tall, 1–2' wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Summer
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; moderate moisture

**My Notes:** Lemon-scented foliage; used for teas and culinary purposes; deer rarely bother. Its an aggressive spreader so be careful where you plant it.



### **Mint (various, e.g., Peppermint, Spearmint) (Mentha spp.)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
- 🌱 Zones: 3–9
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
- 📏 Size: 12–24" tall, spreads vigorously
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Summer
- 💧 Needs: Moist, well-drained soil

My Notes: Aromatic, vigorous groundcover; best grown in containers to prevent spreading; deer tend to avoid.



### **Oregano (Origanum vulgare)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun
- 🌱 Zones: 5–10
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
- 📏 Size: 12–24" tall, 18–24" wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Summer
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; moderate moisture

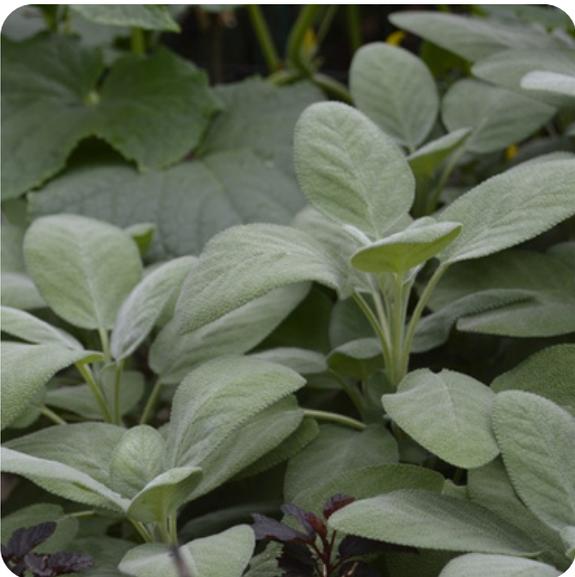
My Notes: Aromatic leaves for cooking; clusters of small flowers attract bees; deer tend to ignore. This is another aggressive spreader depending on the variety.



**Rosemary**  
**(Rosmarinus officinalis)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun
- 🌿 Zones: 7-10 (can overwinter in pots in colder zones)
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
- 📏 Size: 2-6' tall, 2-4' wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Spring-Summer (small blue flowers)
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; drought tolerant once established

My Notes: Aromatic evergreen; great for cooking and borders; deer rarely browse.



**Sage**  
**(Salvia officinalis)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun
- 🌿 Zones: 4-8
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
- 📏 Size: 18-24" tall, 18-24" wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Late Spring-Summer
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; moderate moisture

My Notes: Fragrant gray-green leaves; edible and ornamental; deer rarely eat.



**Tarragon**  
**(*Artemisia dracunculus*)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun
- 🌿 Zones: 4–9
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
- 📏 Size: 2–3' tall, 2–3' wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Summer
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; moderate moisture

My Notes: Aromatic leaves used in cooking; deer generally avoid; prefers sunny, sheltered locations.



**Thyme**  
**(*Thymus* spp.)**

- ☀️ Light: Full Sun
- 🌿 Zones: 4–9
- 🦌 Deer Resistance: Ultra
- 📏 Size: 6–12" tall, 12–24" wide
- 🕒 Bloom Time: Late Spring–Summer
- 💧 Needs: Well-drained soil; drought tolerant

My Notes: Low-growing aromatic herb; attracts pollinators; deer usually avoid.

# Companion Planting with Deer in Mind

Some plants are simply more tempting to deer than others. As you may have noticed throughout this guide, a few plants are listed as having only medium deer resistance—and there are even some, like sunflowers, that typically don't stand a chance. But with a little strategy and creativity, you can often outsmart the deer and still enjoy those plants.

For example, one summer I had a sunflower pop up behind a large ornamental grass with serrated leaves. The deer didn't want to push through the grass and risk getting scratched, so they left the sunflower alone. I've also tucked a sedum beneath my Russian sage, and this year it hasn't been touched—likely thanks to the sage's strong scent and airy barrier. Even my honeynut squash, which usually gets nibbled where it trails over the fence, has survived untouched when growing through a rosemary plant.

With a bit of clever placement, you can sometimes protect plants that would otherwise be deer candy. I hope this encourages you to experiment and push the limits of what's possible in your garden, even with those ever-curious visitors around.

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- **Hardy Ageratum** (*Conoclinium coelestinum*) – Misty blue blooms; spreads by rhizomes; US Native... p. 19

## Fall (September–October)

- **Sedum / Stonecrop** (*Hylotelephium spectabile*, *H. telephium*) – Succulent foliage; pink to red blooms... p. 20
- **Yucca** (*Yucca filamentosa*) – Tall white flower spikes in early fall (varies by region); US Native... p. 20
- **Ornamental Grasses** (*Miscanthus*, *Panicum*, *Calamagrostis*, *Festuca*, etc.) – Feathery plumes; texture and movement; deer resistant; many U.S. natives... p. 21

## Shade Perennials

- **Astilbe** (*Astilbe* spp.) – Feathery plumes; moisture-loving... p. 23
- **Bleeding Heart** (*Dicentra spectabilis*) – Heart-shaped flowers; graceful foliage... p. 23
- **Brunnera** (*Brunnera macrophylla*) – Silver-veined leaves; spring flowers... p. 24
- **Goatsbeard** (*Aruncus dioicus*) – Tall plumes; ferny foliage; US Native... p. 24
- **Hellebore** (*Helleborus* spp.) – Early blooms; evergreen foliage... p. 25
- **Ligularia** (*Ligularia dentata*) – Bold foliage; yellow blooms; moisture-loving... p. 25
- **Lungwort** (*Pulmonaria* spp.) – Spotted leaves; early spring flowers... p. 26
- **Peony** (*Paeonia* spp.) – Large blooms; long-lived perennial... p. 26
- **Fern** (Various spp.) – Lush, feathery foliage; adds texture... p. 27
- **Japanese Forest Grass** (*Hakonechloa macra*) – Graceful, arching foliage; vibrant green or golden tones for shade and texture... p. 27

## Ground Covers

- **Bugleweed** (*Ajuga reptans*) – Spreading mats; blue spring flowers... p. 29
- **Creeping Jenny** (*Lysimachia nummularia*) – Golden foliage; fast ground cover... p. 29
- **Dead Nettle** (*Lamium maculatum*) – Silver leaves; pink spring blooms... p. 30
- **Lamb's Ear** (*Stachys byzantina*) – Soft silvery leaves; deer proof... p. 30
- **Pachysandra** (*Pachysandra terminalis*) – Evergreen carpet for deep shade... p. 31
- **Plumbago** (*Plumbago auriculata*) – Sky-blue blooms... p. 31

## Annuals

- **Castor Bean** (*Ricinus communis*) – Bold, tropical foliage with spiky seed pods... p.33 dramatic focal point that deer won't touch.
- **Cleome** (*Cleome hassleriana*) – Spidery flowers; summer color... p.33
- **Cosmos** (*Cosmos bipinnatus*) – Airy flowers; deer-resistant blooms... p.34
- **Elephant Ear** (*Alocasia* & *Colocasia* spp.) – Giant leaves; tropical impact... p.34
- **Lantana** (*Lantana camara*) – Multicolored clusters; butterfly magnet... p.35
- **Vinca** (*Catharanthus roseus*) – Glossy foliage; nonstop flowers... p.35

## Bulbs

- **Daffodil** (*Narcissus* spp.) – Cheerful spring blooms; ... p. 37
- **Muscari** (*Muscari armeniacum*) – Fragrant blue clusters; naturalizes easily... p. 37
- **Gladiolus** (*Gladiolus* spp.) – Tall spikes of vibrant summer color... p. 38
- **Allium** (*Allium* spp.) – Globe-shaped blooms; striking structure ... p. 38

## Evergreen Shrubs / Trees

- **Barberry** (*Berberis spp.*) – Spiny; colorful foliage; deer-resistant... p. 40
- **Blue Spruce** (*Picea pungens*) – Conical; blue needles; hardy; US Native... p. 40
- **Boxwood** (*Buxus spp.*) – Dense; formal; slow-growing shrub... p. 41
- **Golden Mop False Cypress** (*Chamaecyparis pisifera ‘Golden Mop’*) – Thread-like golden foliage; compact... p. 41
- **Goshiki** (*Chamaecyparis pisifera ‘Goshiki’*) – Variegated needles; colorful texture
- **False Holly** (*Ilex crenata*) – Small leaves; deer-resistant; versatile... p. 42
- **Holly** (*Ilex spp.*) – Spiny evergreen; berries; US Native... p. 42
- **Juniper** (*Juniperus spp.*) – Needle-like foliage; low-maintenance; US Native... p. 43
- **White Pine** (*Pinus strobus*) – Evergreen; soft blue-green needles; US Native... p. 43

## Deciduous Shrubs

- **Ninebark** (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) – Peeling bark; flowers; US Native... p. 44
- **Smokebush** (*Cotinus coggygria*) – Puffy blooms; colorful foliage... p. 44
- **Spirea** (*Spiraea spp.*) – Compact; flowering; easy-care shrub... p. 45
- **Weigela** (*Weigela spp.*) – Tubular flowers; pollinator-friendly; deciduous... p. 45

## Herbs

- **Lavender** (*Lavandula spp.*) – Aromatic flowers; pollinator favorite... p. 47
- **Lemon Balm** (*Melissa officinalis*) – Lemon-scented leaves; deer resistant... p. 47
- **Mint** (*Mentha spp.*) – Fast-spreading; fragrant; versatile... p. 48
- **Oregano** (*Origanum vulgare*) – Culinary favorite; low maintenance... p. 48
- **Rosemary** (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) – Woody; aromatic; drought tolerant... p. 49
- **Sage** (*Salvia officinalis*) – Gray-green foliage; culinary use... p. 49
- **Tarragon** (*Artemisia dracuncululus*) – Licorice-flavored leaves; perennial... p. 50
- **Thyme** (*Thymus vulgaris*) – Low-growing; aromatic; drought tolerant... p. 50

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Cindy