



Deer Resistant Plants

We thank our friend Master Gardener and Master Naturalist
Bill Luedecke for compiling this list

Deer Resistant Landscape Plants

A compilation provided by Bill Luedecke, Master Gardener/Master Naturalist

Deer are a major landscape menace, both rural and sometimes urban, in the Hill Country and other areas overpopulated by deer. Few plants are fully deer-proof, but a number of species are impalatable enough to be left alone as long as other food is available. Droughts and other situations that create a serious food shortage can cause deer to lose their inhibitions and eat otherwise impalatable plants. With this disclaimer in mind, the list that follows was prepared.

This list is a compilation from personal observations by this writer, Professor and Extension Horticulturist John Lipe, suggestions by Fredericksburg nurseryman-landscaper John Dobbs, Ken Schlinder, Chester Langerhans, and Ty Grubbs, Garden-Ville of Austin, and in a few cases, from other lists.

Tips for Deer Proofing: 1. Surround newly planted trees and shrubs with a cage of wire fencing until they become established. 2. "Hinder" deer repellent may be spread on plants to form a protective coating on the leaves. 3. Animals mark their territories by urinating around borders of their area. You can "mark" your own garden to help repel deer and rabbits. Urine is sterile, unless an infection is present, and is a good source of nitrogen. Vegetarians will not have the same results as carnivores with this method. A late night visit to "mark" the garden may do the trick for you too. 4. Human hair is also a deer repellent, gather cuts from your local salon/barber to mark your boundaries.

Loss of habitat and other environmental stress can result in almost any plant being eaten by deer. Moreover, deer tastes vary wildly. This list ranks each plant for deer resistance through the numbers in parentheses at the end of the listing.

1 = Safe; Deer don't eat
2 = Deer eat flowers only
3 = Deer eat sometimes

4 = Observed heavily eaten under pressure
5 = Texas Native
6 = Shade tolerant

Annuals

Bluebonnet, Lupinus (1,5)
Marigold, Tagetes spp. (3)
Periwinkle, Vinca Rosea (3)
Pot Marigold, Calendula (3)
Zennia (3)

Bulbs

Caladium (3)
Daffodil (1)
Iris (1)
Snowdrop (1)
Tulip (1)

Herbs

Aloe (1)
Artemisia (3)
English Lavender (3)
Mexican Mint Marigold (3)
Mexican Oregano (1)
Rosemary (1)
Sage (1)
Yarrow (3,5)

Perennials

Agave (1)
Ageratum, Ageratum spp.
Ajuga Reptans (3)
Artichoke (3)
Aster frikartii (3)
Bee Baum, Monarda (3)
Begonia, Begonia spp. (4)
Black-eyed Susan, Rudbeckia Hirta (3,5)
Blackfoot Daisy, Melampodium leucanthum (3)
Butterfly Weed, Asclepias tuberosa (3)
Cactus (1,5)
Cast-iron Plant (5)
Cedar Sage, Salvia roemeriana (5,6)
Chrysanthemum spp. (2)
Columbine, Aquilegia Canadensis (3)
Coneflower, Echinacea spp. (2,5)
Coreopsis hyb. and spp (2,5)
Cosmos, Cosmos bipinnatus
Dusty Miller, Centaurea cineraria (3)
Flame Acanthus, Anisacanthus wrightii
Foxglove, Digitalis (2,5)
Gayfeather, Liatris (2)
Hens and Chicks, Sempervivum spp.
Hummingbird Bush, Anisacanthus (1)
Indigo Spires, Salvia spp.
Iris (1)
Lamb's Ear, Stachys byzantina (1)
Lantana, horrida, natives resistant, hybrids not
Lavender Cotton, Santolina (1)
Lily of the Nile, Agapanthus (1)
Mealy-cup Blue Sage, Salvia farniacea (5)
Mexican Bush Sage, Salvia leucanthia (1)
Mexican Mint Marigold, Tagetes lucida (3)
Mexican Petuia, Ruellia spp. (1)
Oxalis (3)
Oxeye Daisy, Chrys. Leucanthum (1)
Penstemon (3)
Red Yucca, Hesperaloe parvifolia (2,5)
Rock Rose, Pavonia (3)
Roses (Lady Banks-no nibbling) (4)
Rosemary, Rosmarinum officinalist (1)
Russian Sage, Paervosdia (1)
Salvia coccinea (3)
Salvia greggii (Cherry Sage less nibbling) (4)

Shrubs

Abelia spp (3)
Acuba, Acuba japonica (6)
Agarito, Berberis trifoliata (1,5)
Agave (2)
Autumn Aster, Aster spp (4)
Autumn Sage, Salvia greggii (5,6)
Barberry, Berberis (pygmy not resistant) (1)
Bear Grass, Nolina spp. (1)
Beautyberry, Callicarpa Americana (1)
Blackberry, Rubus spp (thorny only) (5)
Buckeye, Aesculus pavia (3)
Butterfly Bush, Buddleia (3)
Boxwood, Buxus microphylla
Cassia spp (3)
Cast Iron Plant, Aspidistra (3)
Cactus (1)
Cenizo, Leucophyllum frutescens (1)
Cherry Sage (3)
Cotoneaster (3)
Dwarf Chinese Holly, Ilex (1)
Dwarf Yaupon, Ilex (Stokes variety) (1)
Eleagnus (3)
Evergreen Sumac, Rhus virens (1,5)
Fragrant Mimosa, Mimosa borealis (5)
Germander, Teucrium fruticans (3)
Goldcup, Hypericum spp
Hypericum (3)
Kerusalem
Japanese arealia, Areilia sieboldii
Jerusalem Cherry, Solanum pseudocapsicum
Junipers (most varieties) (1,5)
Kidneywood, Eysenhardtia texana (3)
Lantana, Lantana horrida (natives resistant)(4,5)
Mistflower, Eupatorium (1)
Mexican Buckeye, Ungnadia speciosa (5)
Mexican Oregano, Poliomintha longiflora (1)
Mexican Silktassle, Garrya lindheimeri (5)
Mountain Laurel, Sophora secundiflora (1)
Nandina, nana and domestica (3,6)
Oleander, Nerium (1)
Pampas Grass, Cortaderia selloana (1)
Prickley Pear Cactus (1)
Privet (3)
Pyracantha spp. (1)
Red-Leaf or Japanese Barberry, thunbergii
Red Yucca, Hesperaloe parviflora (3)
Rosemary, Rosmarinus officinalis (1)
Salvia greggii (red) (3)
Salvia leucantha (1)
Santolina (1)
Scotch Broom, Cytisus scoparius
Sotol, Dasyilirion (2)
Spirea (3)
Sumac, Rhus spp (1)

Silver Artemisia, *Artemisia ludoviciana* (2)
 Sotol, *Dasyliirion* spp. (1,5)
 Spiderwort, *Tradescantia* spp. (3)
 Sword Fern, *Nephrolepis* spp. (6)
 Turks Cap, *Malvaviscus arboreus* (3)
 Verbena, *Verbena* spp. (5)
 Wood Fern, *Dryopteris* spp. (1,5,6)
 Yarrow, *Achillea* spp. (3)
 Zexmenia, *Wedelia hispida* (1)

Trees

Anacacho Orchid (1)
 Ash, *Franxinum* spp. (1)
 Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum* (1)
 Bois d'Arc (1)
 Cedar Elm (1)
 Chaste Tree, *Vitex* spp. (1)
 Cherry Laurel, *Prunus caroliniana* (1)
 Crepe Myrtle (old varieties) (1)
 Desert Willow, *Chilopsis linearis* (5)
 Deodora Cedar (1)
 Elm (all varieties) (1)
 Flameleaf Sumac, *Rhus lanceolata* (5)
 Fig, *Ficus* spp. (1)
 Golden Ball Lead Tree, *Leucana retusa* (5)
 Juniper (1)
 Maple, *Acer grandidentatum* (1)
 Mesquite, *Prosopis* (beans eaten) (1)
 Mexican Persimmon, *Diospyros texana* (1)
 Mexican Plum, *Prunus mexicana* (1)
 Mountain Laurel (1,5)
 Oaks, *Quercus* spp (1)
 Palm (all varieties) (1)
 Pecan (1)
 Pine (3)
 Possum Haw, *Ilex deciduas* (1)
 Redbud (Eastern & Mexican nibbled) (3)
 Retama (3)
 Roughleaf Dogwood, *Cornus drummondii* (5,6)
 Smoke Tree, *Cotinus obovatus* (1)
 Sumac, *Rhus* spp. (1)
 Texas Buckeye, *Acsculus arguta* (5,6)
 Texas Persimmon, *Dispyros texana* (5)
 Walnut (1)
 Yaupon, *Ilex vomitoria* (1)

Texas Persimmon, *Diospyros texana* (1)
 Texas Sage, *Leucophyllum frutescens* (1,5)
 Turk's Cap, *Malvaviscus arboreus* (5,6)
 Viburnum (1)
 Wax Myrtle, *Myrica cerifera* (1)
 Yaupon, *Ilex* (use Stokes) (1)
 Yew Pine, *Podocarpus macrophyllus* (1)
 Yucca (2)

Grasses

Bamboos, *Bambusa* (3)
 Beargrass, *Nolina* spp. (1,5)
 Fescues, *Festuea* spp. (3)
 Little Bluestem (1)
 Muhly Grass, *Muhlenbergia Lindheim* (1)
 Pampas Grass, *Cortaderia* spp. (1)
 Seep Muhly (1)

Vines and Groundcovers

Aarons Beard, *Hypericum calycinum*
 Ajuga (3)
 Asiatic Jasmine (1)
 Carolina Jessamine (3)
 Carpet Bugle, *Ajuga reptans* (4,6)
 Clematis (3)
 Confederate Jasmine (3)
 Cross Vine (1)
 English and Algerian Ivy (1)
 Ferns (3)
 Fig Ivy (3)
 Honeysuckle (Coral & purple nibbled less) (3)
 Liriope (4)
 Monkey Grass (4)
 Muhly Grass (1)
 Myrtle, *Vinca major* (6)
 Santolina (1,5)
 Spearmint, *Menta spicata* (6)
 Star Jasmine, *Trachelospernum jasminoides*(4)
 Verbena (3)
 Vinca, *Apocynaceae* (3)
 Virginia Creeper (3)
 Wisteria (3)
 Yarrow (3)

