



Sustainable
Landscape Solutions

Customer Information

DEER RESISTANT PLANTS FOR N FLORIDA

It can be discouraging to battle deer damage in your landscape. Barriers are the most effective solution but because of aesthetics or cost, they are often not practical. Since deer feeding behavior can be very unpredictable and affected by many factors (geography, regional tastes, time of year, hunger level, availability of preferred foods, population and habitat pressures), the best approach is likely an integrated one. Experiment with a combination of temporary and permanent physical barriers, motion activated devices, repellants (one type may work better than another on your particular deer) and plants deer are likely to avoid, to find what seems to work best in your own yard. There are many long lists of deer resistant plants because at times these plants have been left alone by deer. Some plants are even listed as resistant on one list and as a favorite food on another. Trials in your own yard can discover which plants are most likely to be left alone in your particular situation. The best strategy is to start with plants most likely to be unattractive to deer. Poisonous plants are tops on the list.

The Short List

Unless deer are starving, poisonous plants may be the only reliably deer resistant plants. These include Foxglove (*Digitalis*), Milkweed (*Asclepias*), Euphorbias like Diamond Frost, Poinsettia, and Crown of Thorns, Oleander (*Nerium*), Daffodils (*Narcissus*), and Poppies (*Papaver*). Although the fruits may be targeted, the vegetation of Eggplant, Tomato, and Potato (all *Solanum*) can cause nitrate poisoning. Angel's Trumpets (*Brugmansia*) is also in this group. Avocado (*Persea*) can be toxic to large animals. There are other poisonous plants but not suited to our gardening climate.

You can also identify plants which are likely candidates for deer avoidance by noting whether they have highly fragrant foliage (deer rely on their sense of smell for protection and strong smells may mask predators), tough, hairy or spiny foliage, gray foliage, or milky sap. Deer may also find some to have a bitter or alkaloid taste. The longer list below contains plants with these features and was developed from University, Cooperative Extensions, and Master Gardener publications from sources in the Southeast for plants we can grow.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS

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| Acanthus | Catmint (<i>Nepeta</i>) | Globe amaranth (<i>Gomphrena</i>) |
| African Daisy (<i>Osteospermum</i>) | Chrysanthemum | Heliconia, some |
| African Iris (<i>Dietes</i>) | Citronella (<i>Pelargonium</i>) | Heliotrope (<i>Heliotropium</i>) |
| Agastache | Colocasia | Jacobinia (<i>Justicia</i>) |
| Alocasia | Coneflower (<i>Echinacea</i>) | Lamb's Ear (<i>Stachys</i>) |
| Amaryllis (<i>Hippeastrum</i>) | Coreopsis, some | Lilyturf (<i>Liriope</i>) |
| Angelonia | Creeping Jenny (<i>Lysimachia</i>) | Lobelia, some |
| Anthurium | Cyclamen | Lobularia, Sweet Alyssum (<i>Lobularia</i>) |
| Aster | Dahlberg Daisy (<i>Thymophylla</i>) | Marigold (<i>Tagetes</i>) |
| Bee Balm (<i>Monarda</i>) | Delphinium | Melampodium |
| Bird of Paradise (<i>Strelitzia</i>) | Dianthus | Mexican Petunia (<i>Ruellia</i>) |
| Blazing Star (<i>Liatris</i>) | Dieffenbachia | Million Bells (<i>Calibrachoa</i>) |
| Blue Daze (<i>Evolvulus</i>) | Dracaena | Mona Lavender (<i>Plectranthus</i>) |
| Bromeliad (<i>Bromeliaceae</i>) | Dusty Miller (<i>Centaurea</i>) | Mondo Grass (<i>Ophiopogon</i>) |
| Bugleweed (<i>Ajuga</i>) | Fan Flower (<i>Scaevola</i>) | Ornamental Grasses, most |
| Calla Lily (<i>Zantedeschia</i>) | Ferns, most | Ornamental Peppers (<i>Capsicum</i>) |
| Canna Lily (<i>Canna</i>) | Firecracker Plant (<i>Russelia</i>) | Peace Lily (<i>Spathiphyllum</i>) |
| Cast Iron Plant (<i>Aspidistra</i>) | Floss Flower (<i>Ageratum</i>) | Peony (<i>Paeonia</i>) |
| | Gaura | Pincushion Flower (<i>Scabiosa</i>) |

Pot marigold (Calendula)
Purple Heart (Tradescantia)
Rush (Juncus)
Russian Sage (Perovskia)
Salvia, most
Sedges (Carex)
Silver Mound, Powis Castle (Artemisia)
Snapdragon (Antirrhinum)
Society Garlic (Tulbaghia)
Spider Flower (Cleome)
Strawflower (Helichrysum)
Vinca (Catharanthus)
Wishbone Flower (Torenia)
Yarrow (Achillea)
Yucca
Zinnia (Zinnia)

SHRUBS AND TREES

Abelia
Anise (Illicium)
Arizona Cypress (Cupressus)
Austrian Pine (Pinus)
Bald Cypress (Taxodium)
Bamboo (Bambusa)
Banana Shrub (Michelia)
Baptisia
Bayberry (Myrica)
Beautyberry (Callicarpa)
Bluebeard (Caryopteris)
Bottlebrush (Callistemon)
Boxwood (Buxus)
Bush Daisy (Euryops)
Butterfly Bush (Buddleia), some
Camellia
Cape Honeysuckle (Tecoma)
Carolina Sweetshrub (Calycanthus)
Chaste Tree (Vitex)
Clusia
Coontie (Zamia)
Crapemyrtle (Lagerstroemia)
Croton (Codiaeum)
Cryptomeria

Elaeagnus
False Cypress (Chamaecyparis)
Firebush (Hamelia), some
Firethorn (Pyracantha)
Flowering Dogwood (Cornus)
Fragrant Tea Olive (Osmanthus)
Gardenia
Golden Rain Tree (Koelreuteria)
Goshiki False Holly (Osmanthus)
Hollies, many
Italian Cypress (Cupressus)
Ixora
Japanese Maple (Acer)
Japanese Plum Yew (Cephalotaxus)
Japanese Yew (Podocarpus)
Juniper, many
Lantana, many
Ligustrum, many
Limequat (Citrofortunella)
Lion's Ear (Leonotis)
Live Oak (Quercus)
Loquat (Eriobotrya)
Loropetalum
Magnolia
Mahonia
Mimosa (Albizia)
Norfolk Island Pine (Araucaria)
Orchid Tree (Bauhinia)
Palms and Palmettos, most
Philodendron, many
Pineapple Guava (Feijoa)
Plumbago
Plumeria
Podocarpus
Red Buckeye (Aesculus)
River Birch (Betula)
Rose of Sharon (Hibiscus syriacus)
Silverbell (Halesia)
Spirea (Spiraea)
Sweet Bay (Laurus)
Texas Sage (Leucophyllum)
Thryallis (Galphimia)

Viburnum, many
Waxmyrtle, Southern (Morella)

SUCCULENTS

Agave
Aloe
Cactus (Cactaceae)
Crown of Thorns (Euphorbia)
Mexican Grass Tree (Dasylirion)
Sedum, some
Sempervivum

VINES

Allamanda
Black-eyed Susan Vine (Thunbergia)
Bougainvillea
Confed. Jasmine (Trachelospermum)
Creeping Fig (Ficus)
Jessamine (Cestrum, Gelsemium)
Mandevilla, some
Pothos (Epipremnum)

EDIBLES

Cucumber (Cucumis)
Dill (Anethum)
Fennel (Foeniculum)
Figs, edible (Ficus carica)
Lavender (Lavandula)
Lemongrass (Cymbopogon)
Marjoram (Origanum)
Mint (Mentha)
Onion, Garlic, Chives (Allium)
Oregano (Origanum)
Peppers (Capsicum)
Rosemary (Rosmarinus)
Sage, culinary (Salvia)
Savory (Satureja)
Squash (Cucurbita)
Tarragon (Artemisia)
Thyme (Thymus)