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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>	Four O’Clock	<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>
Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	Forget-Me-Not	<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>
Wax Begonia	<i>Begonia x semperflorens-cultorum</i>	Flowering Tobacco	<i>Nicotiana spp.</i>
Cleome	<i>Cleome hassierrana</i>	Annual Poppy	<i>Papaver spp.</i>
Dahlia	<i>Dahlia spp.</i>	Geranium	<i>Pelargonium x hortorum</i>
Thorn Apple	<i>Datura spp.</i>	Petunia	<i>Petunia x hybrid</i>
Heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium arborescens</i>	Salvia	<i>Salvia spp.</i>
Polk-a-dot Plant	<i>Hypoestes phyllostachya</i>	Dusty Miller	<i>Senecio cinerama</i>
Moonflower	<i>Ipomoea alba</i>	Marigold	<i>Tagetes patula</i>
Edging Lobelia	<i>Lobelia erinus</i>	Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>
Sweet Alyssum	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Verbena	<i>Verbena spp.</i>
Monkey Flower	<i>Mimulus cuprens</i>		

Perennials:

Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Bergenia	<i>Bergenia spp.</i>
Monkshood	<i>Aconitum spp.</i>	Boltonia	<i>Boltonia spp.</i>
Anise Hyssop	<i>Agastache spp.</i>	Bugloss	<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>
Hollyhock	<i>Alcea spp.</i>	Heather	<i>Calluna spp.</i>
Ornamental Onion	<i>Alium spp.</i>	Jupiter’s Beard	<i>Centranthus spp.</i>
Blue Star	<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	Bachelor Button	<i>Centaurea montana</i>
Anemone	<i>Anemone spp.</i>	Knapweed	<i>Centura spp.</i>
Angelica	<i>Angelica archangelica</i>	Snakeroot, Bugbane	<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i>
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia spp.</i>	Tickseed	<i>Coreopsis spp.</i>
Rockcress	<i>Arabis caucasica</i>	Crocsmia	<i>Crocsmia spp.</i>
Jack-in-the-Pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Japanese Holly Fern	<i>Cyrtomium fortunei</i>
Seathrift	<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Daffodil	<i>Narcissus spp.</i>
Wormwood	<i>Artemisia spp.</i>	Hay-Scented Fern	<i>Dennestaedia punctilobula</i>
Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias spp.</i>	Delphinium	<i>Delphinium spp.</i>
New York Aster	<i>Aster novi-belgi</i>	Sweet William, Pinks	<i>Dianthus spp.</i>
Masterwort	<i>Astrantia spp.</i>	Bleeding Heart	<i>Dicentra spp.</i>
Purple Rockcress	<i>Aubretia deltoidea</i>	Gas Plant	<i>Dictamnus albus</i>
Basket of Gold	<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>	Globe Thistle	<i>Echinops spp.</i>
False Indigo	<i>Baptisia spp.</i>	Blue Lyme Grass	<i>Elymus spp.</i>

Heath	<i>Erica spp.</i>	Ornamental Oregano	<i>Origanum spp.</i>
Joe-Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium spp.</i>	Ornamental Grasses	Most Species
Spurge	<i>Euphorbia spp.</i>	Cinnamon Fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>
Queen-of-the-Prairie	<i>Filipendula rubra</i>	Interrupted Fern	<i>Osmunda clavtoniana</i>
Meadow Sweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Royal Fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>
Gaura	<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i>	Poppy	<i>Papaver spp.</i>
Blanket Flower	<i>Gaillardia x grandiflora</i>	Russian Sage	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>
Cranesbill	<i>Geranium spp.</i>	Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon spp.</i>
Avens	<i>Geum spp.</i>	Ribbon Grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>
Baby's Breath	<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>	Creeping Phlox	<i>Phlox subulata</i>
Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Balloon Flower	<i>Platycodon grandiflorus</i>
Jerusalem Artichoke	<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>	Jacob's Latter	<i>Polemonium spp.</i>
False Sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Soloman's Seal	<i>Polygonatum spp.</i>
Helleborus, Lenten Rose	<i>Helleborus spp.</i>	Christmas Fern	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>
Dame's Rocket	<i>Hesperis spp.</i>	Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla spp.</i>
St. John's Wort	<i>Hypericum spp.</i>	Primrose	<i>Primula spp.</i>
Candytuft	<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	Lungwort	<i>Pulmonaria spp.</i>
Iris	Most Species	Pasque Flower	<i>Pulsatilla vulgaris</i>
Waxy Bells	<i>Kirengeshoma palmata</i>	Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus spp.</i>
Torch Lily	<i>Kniphofia spp.</i>	Rhubarb	<i>Rheum spp.</i>
Lavender	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	Rodgersia	<i>Rodgersia spp.</i>
Gayfeather	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Meadow Sage	<i>Salvia spp.</i>
Ligularia	<i>Ligularia spp.</i>	Lavender Cotton	<i>Santolina spp.</i>
Statice	<i>Limonium latifolium</i>	Soapwort	<i>Saponaria spp.</i>
Toadflax	<i>Linaria spp.</i>	Mossy saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga arendsii</i>
Blue Flax	<i>Linum perenne</i>	Pincushion Flower	<i>Scabiosa spp.</i>
Lupine	<i>Lupinus spp.</i>	Goldenrod	<i>Solidago spp.</i>
Rose Campion	<i>Lychnis coronaria</i>	Lamb's Ear	<i>Stachys byzantine</i>
Japanese Loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia clethroides</i>	Feverfew	<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>
Ostrich Fern	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	Meadow Rue	<i>Thalictrum spp.</i>
Virginia Bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Creeping Thyme	<i>Thymus spp.</i>
Partridgeberry	<i>Mitchella repens</i>	Foam Flower	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>
Beebalm	<i>Monarda spp.</i>	Toadlily	<i>Tricyrtis hirta</i>
Sweet Cicely	<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>	Trillium	<i>Trillium spp.</i>
Catmint	<i>Nepeta spp.</i>	Ornamental Mullein	<i>Verbascum spp.</i>
Sundrops	<i>Oenothera tetragona</i>	Speedwell	<i>Veronica spp.</i>
Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera spp.</i>	Labrador Violet	<i>Viola labridorica</i>
Sensitive Fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Adam's Needle	<i>Yucca (flowers maybe browsed)</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	<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>	Yellowtwig Dogwood	<i>Cornus alba</i>
Chokeberry	<i>Aronia spp.</i>	Redtwig Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>
Barberry	<i>Berberis spp.</i>	Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster spp.</i>
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Smokebush	<i>Cotinus spp.</i>
Boxwood	<i>Buxus spp.</i>	Scotch Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
Sweetshrub	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	Deutzia	<i>Deutzia spp.</i>
Blue Mist, Blue Beard	<i>Caryopteris clandonensis</i>	Disanthus	<i>Disanthus cercidifolius</i>
Japanese Plum Yew	<i>Cephalotaxus harringtonia</i>	Redvein Enkianthus	<i>Enkianthus campanulatus</i>
Summersweet	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Forsythia	<i>Forsythia spp.</i>

Franklin Tree	<i>Franklinia alatamaha</i>
Witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis spp.</i>
St. John's Wort	<i>Hypericum spp.</i>
Japanese Holly	<i>Ilex crenata</i>
Ink Berry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>
Japanese Kerria	<i>Kerria japonica</i>
Beautybush	<i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i>
Leucothoe	<i>Leucothoe spp.</i>
Privet	<i>Ligustrum spp.</i>
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>
Oregon Grape Holly	<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>
Carpet Cypress	<i>Microbiota decussata</i>
Bayberry	<i>Myrica pennsylvanica</i>
Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>

Nest Spruce	<i>Picea abies 'Nidiformis'</i>
Globe Spruce	<i>Picea pungens 'Globosa'</i>
Mugo Pine	<i>Pinus mugo</i>
Andromeda	<i>Pieris japonica</i>
Potentilla	<i>Potentilla spp.</i>
Currants	<i>Ribes spp.</i>
Elder (Elderberry)	<i>Sambucus spp.</i>
False Spirea	<i>Sorbaria sorbifolia</i>
Spirea	<i>Spirea spp.</i>
Snowberry, Coralberry	<i>Symphoricarpos spp.</i>
Meyer Lilac	<i>Syringa meyeri</i>
Viburnum	<i>Viburnum spp. (most)</i>
Weigela	<i>Weigela florida</i>
Dusty Zenobia	<i>Zenobia pulverulenta</i>

Trees:

Mimosa	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus spp.</i>
Chestnuts	<i>Castanea spp.</i>
Catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>
Atlas Cedar	<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>
Katsura	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>
Fringe Tree	<i>Chionanthus spp.</i>
Yellowwood	<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>
American Smoketree	<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>
Hawthorne	<i>Crataegus spp.</i>
Beech	<i>Fagus spp.</i>
Hazelnut/Filberts	<i>Corylus spp.</i>
Franklin Tree	<i>Franklinia alatamaha</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus spp.</i>
Maidenhair Tree	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
Honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>
Kentucky Coffee Tree	<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>
Carolina Silverbell	<i>Halesia carolina</i>
Golden Chain Tree	<i>Laburnum x watereri</i>

Larch	<i>Larix spp.</i>
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
Tulip Tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
Magnolia	<i>Magnolia spp.</i>
Dawn Redwood	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>
Black Gum, Tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>
Sourwood	<i>Oxydendron arboretum</i>
Persian Parrotia	<i>Parrotia persica</i>
Spruce	<i>Picea spp.</i>
Sycamore	<i>Platanus spp.</i>
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>
Stewartia	<i>Stewartia spp.</i>
Japanese Tree Lilac	<i>Syringa reticulata</i>
Linden	<i>Tilia spp.</i>
Elm	<i>Ulmus spp.</i>
Chastetree	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>
Japanese Zelkova	<i>Zelkova serrata</i>

Moderate Browse Risk:

Perennials:

Astilbe	<i>Astilbe spp.</i>
Goatsbeard	<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>
Bellflowers	<i>Campanula spp.</i>
Canna Lily	<i>Canna Hybrids</i>
Turtlehead	<i>Chelone spp.</i>
Shasta Daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>
Clematis	<i>Clematis spp.</i>

Foxglove	<i>Digitalis spp.</i>
Coneflowers	<i>Echinacea spp.</i>
Rose Mallow	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>
Grape Hyacinth	<i>Muscari armeniacum</i>
Peony	<i>Paeonia spp.</i>
Black Eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia spp.</i>
Stonecrop	<i>Sedum spectabile</i>
Foam flowers	<i>Tiarella spp.</i>

Shrubs:

Beauty Berry	<i>Callicarpa spp.</i>
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>
False Cypress	<i>Chamaecyperis sp.</i>
Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus spp.</i>
Winterhazel	<i>Corylopsis spp.</i>
Daphne	<i>Daphne spp.</i>
Bush Honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla spp.</i>
Burning Bush	<i>Euonymus alatas</i>

Fothergilla	<i>Fothergilla spp.</i>
Rose-of-Sharon	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>
American Holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>
Winterberry	<i>Ilex spp.</i>
Spreading Juniper	<i>Juniperus spp.</i>
Eastern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Mock Orange	<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>
Purple Leaf Sandcherry	<i>Prunus x cistena</i>

Firethorn	<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Persian Lilac	<i>Syringa x persica</i>
Raspberry	<i>Rubus spp.</i>	Late Blooming Lilac	<i>Syringa villosa</i>
Sumac	<i>Rhus spp.</i>	Common Lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>
Willow	<i>Salix spp.</i>		

Trees:

White Fir	<i>Abies concolor</i>	Japanese Cedar	<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>
Horsechestnut	<i>Aesculus spp.</i>	Pine	<i>Pinus spp.</i> (most)
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>	Oak	<i>Quercus spp.</i>
Birch	<i>Betula spp.</i>	Sumac	<i>Rhus spp.</i> (most)
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>
Hinoki Cypress	<i>Chamaecyperis obtusa</i>		

High Browse Risk:

Perennials:

Mum	<i>Chrysanthemum spp.</i>	Lilies	<i>Lilium spp.</i>
Crocus	<i>Crocus spp.</i>	Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>
Strawberry	<i>Fragaria spp.</i>	Phlox, garden	<i>Phlox paniculata</i>
Daylily	<i>Hemerocallis spp.</i>	Roses	<i>Rosa spp.</i>
Coral bells and hybrids	<i>Heuchera and hybrids</i>	Tulip	<i>Tulipa spp.</i>
Hosta	<i>Hosta spp.</i>	Violets	<i>Viola spp.</i>

Shrubs:

Quince	<i>Chaenomeles spp.</i>	Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron spp.</i>
Euonymus	<i>Euonymus spp.</i>	Willow	<i>Salix 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>
Azalea	<i>Rhododendron 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>	Arborvitae	<i>Thuja spp.</i>