

How do I keep deer away?

The glimpse of a whitetail deer at twilight can be a lovely sight, but gardeners know that deer can cause more damage to plants than insects in a suburban landscape. A few deer may seem a simple nuisance, but during a hard winter, they manage to eat everything in sight. Most damage occurs during the part of the year when many food sources are covered with snow or when temperatures are extremely low, but early to mid spring can be a critical time. These are several preventative measures that you can take to protect your plants.



- 1 Try a scare device.** A dog in a fenced yard or on a long lead can keep deer out of a limited area.
- 2 Build a barrier.** If the deer are damaging a few select trees or shrubs, surround the plants with cages made from galvanized hardware cloth positioned a few feet away. Fences will work for larger landscapes. They should be 8-feet high for the best protection.
- 3 Apply a repellent.** For minor damage, repellents can be effective. We offer several products for this. Choose one and apply at the first sign of damage to prevent the deer from establishing a feeding pattern. The repellents will have to be re-applied on a regular basis, especially in the spring when plants are very tender. Follow product instructions and be prepared to apply weekly.
- 4 Experiment with home remedies.** Natural remedies like blood meal, mothballs, bars of soap and bags of human hair have been used with mixed results. Be aware though, that under the pressure of a scarce food supply, deer will learn to tolerate those home remedies.
- 5 Plant trees and shrubs that deer find less appetizing.** The following is a list of least appetizing plants. Remember though, a hungry deer will find most plants edible, even if he doesn't find them tasty.



Yucca

Mugo Pine

Deutzia

Juniper

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Plant trees and shrubs that deer find less appetizing. The following is a list of least appetizing plants. Remember though, a hungry deer will find most plants edible, even if he doesn't find them tasty.

Common Name

Botanic Nomenclature

Adams Needle	Yucca
Arrowwood	Viburnum dentatum
Austrian Pine.....	Pinus nigra
Barberry	Berberis species
Barberry	Myrica pensylvanica
Beautyberry.....	Callicarpa species
Beautybush.....	Kolkwitzia amabilis
Beech	Fagus species
Birch	Betula species
Bottlebrush Buckeye.....	Aesculus parviflora
Bush Cinquefoil.....	Potentilla fruticosa
Carolina Silverbell	Halesia carolina
Common Lilac	Syringa vulgaris
Common Sassafras	Sassafras albidum
Common Sweetshrub	Calycanthus floridus
Common Witchhazel.....	Hamamelis virginiana
Cotoneaster.....	Cotoneaster species
Dawn Redwood	Metasequoia
Deutzia	Deutzia species
Dogwood.....	Cornus species
Douglasfir.....	Pseudotsuga
Elder	Sambucus species
Falsecypress	Chamaecyparis
Dwarf Fothergilla	Fothergilla gardenii
Flowering Cherry.....	Prunus serrulata
Floweringquince.....	Chaenomeles species
Forsythia	Forsythia x intermedia
Fringetree	Chionanthus
Hazelnut.....	Corylus americana
Holly	Ilex species
Honeylocust.....	Gleditsia triacanthos
Japanese Kerria	Kerria japonica
Japanese Pieris	Pieris japonica
Japanese Tree Lilac.....	Syringa reticulata
Juniper	Juniperus species
Katsuratree	Cercidiphyllum
Mugo Pine	Pinus mugo
Oregon Grape Holly.....	Mahonia aquifolium
Paperbark Maple	Acer griseum
Red Chokeberr.....	Aronia arbutifolia
Red Maple	Acer rubrum
Rose of Sharon.....	Hibiscus syriacus
Russian Cypress.....	Microbiota decussata
St Johnswort	Hypericum species
Saucer Magnolia	M x soulangiana
Serviceberry	Amelanchier species
Smokebush	Cotinus coggygria
Spicebush	Lindera benzoin
Spiraea	Spiraea species