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DEER RESISTANT ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

We all love to see deer walk through our gardens, but after they have eaten our favorite rose bush just as it has started to bloom or trampled the bulbs just as they have started to emerge, we are ready to declare war.

The best way to keep deer out of our gardens is a very tall fence. That, however, is not very aesthetically pleasing. The best alternative is to plant deer "resistant" plants. You notice that we emphasize resistant. If deer are hungry enough, they will eat just about anything.

What makes a plant "resistant" to foraging by deer. Many of these plants are poisonous. Some at all times and some only during certain stages of growth. In the following list that the extension service recognizes, the poisonous ones are labeled (P). If you have small children or pets you may want to avoid those labeled as poisonous (P) in areas where they play. Some resistant plants have an unpleasant taste or fragrance and some have an unpleasant texture. Whatever the reason, the following list will help you choose plants that are best suited to areas where deer reside.

<u>PERENNIALS/BULBS</u>		<u>SHRUBS</u>	
<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Botanical Name</u>
Agapanthus africanus	Lily of the Nile	Berberis spp.	Common barberry
Agave americana (P)	Century Plant (P)	Buxus sempervirens	Common boxwood
Aloe spp.	Aloe	Calyeanthus	Western Spice Bush
Aquilegia spp.	Columbine	Celastrus scandens(P)	American Bittersweet(P)
Artemisia tridentate	Basin sagebrush	Chamaerops humilis	Euro. Fan Palm
Arundo donax	Giant Reed	Choisya ternate	Mexican orange
Delphinium spp. (P)	Larkspur (P)		
Digitalis spp. (P)	Foxglove (P)	Cornus stolonifera	Red Osier Dogwood

Heleborus spp. (P)	Hellebore (P)	Cotinus coggygia	Smoke Tree
Iris spp.	Iris	Daphne spp. (P)	Daphne(P)
Kniphofia uvaria	Red-Hot-Poker	Enkianthus	Redvein enkianthus
Leucojum spp.	Snowflake	Forsythia spp.	Forsythia
Lupines spp. (P)	Lupine (P)		
Narcissus spp. (P)	Daffodil (P)	Ilex spp.	Holly
		Jasminum spp.	Jasmine
Oxalis oregano	Oxalis	Juniperus spp.	Juniper
		Kalmia latifolia (P)	Mountian Laurel (P)
Phormium tenax	New Zealand Flax	Kerria japonica	Japanese rose
Romneya coulteri	Matilija poppy	Kolkwitzia amabilis	Beauty Bush
Rosmarinus	Rosemary	Leucothoe	Leucothoe
Trillium spp.	Wake-robin	Melianthus major	Honey Bush
Tulipa spp.	Tulip	Nerium oleander (P)	Oleander (P)
Zantedeschia spp.	Calla Lily	Opuntia spp.	Prickly Pear
Zauschneria spp.	California Fuchsia	Pieris japonica (P)	Japanese Pieris (P)
		Prunus caroliniana (P)	Caroline Cherry (P)
<u>TREES</u>		Rhododendron (P)	Rhododendron
		Rhus ovata	Sugar Bush
Betula papyrifera	Paper Birch	Sabal Blackburniana	Hispaniolan Palmetto
Cordyline australis	Dracaena Palm	Sambucus racemosa(P)	Red Elderberry (P)
		Solanum spp. (P)	Nightshade (P)
Cornus florida	Flowering Dogwood	Syringa vulgaris	Common Lilac
Cornus kousa	Kousa Dogwood	Teucrium fruticans	Germander
Crataegus Laevigata	English Hawthorn		
Diospyros virginiana	Persimmon	<u>MORE TREES:</u>	
Elaeagnus angustifolia	Russian olive	Picea pungens	Colorado Blue Spruce
		Pinus mugo	Mugo pine
Fagus sylvatica	European Beech	Pinus nigra	Austrian pine
Ficus Carica	Edible Fig		
Gleditsia triacanthos	Honey Locust	Pinus sylvestris	Scots pine
Ilex spp.	Holly	Prunus serrulata(P)	J. Flowering Cherry(P)
Juniperus spp	Juniper	Quillaja pseudoacacia(P)	Black locust (P)
		Salix matsudana tortuosa	Corkscrew willow
		Sassafras albidum	Common sassafras
Myrica californica	Wax myrtle	Syzygium paniculatum	Eugenia
Phoenix spp.	Date Palm	Trachycarpus fortunei	Windmill Palm

Picea abies	Norway Spruce		
Picea glauca	White spruce	<i>VINES/GROUNDCOVERS</i>	
		Gelsemium sempervirens (P)	Carolina Jessamine (P)
		Solanum spp. (P)	Nightshade (P)
		Tecomaria capensis	Cape Honeysuckle
		Wisteria floribunda (P)	Japanese wisteria(P)

The above list of plants represents those which have reliably been resistant to deer. However, as we said previously, if a deer is hungry enough they will eat anything even the plants listed above. Our best recommendation is to experiment. If one of these plants is continually eaten by your deer try something else. Even deer have different tastes when it comes to their food.

Also, don't forget the repellent sprays that are available. Many of these work reliably well when applied according to label directions. For more suggestions or comments on what you have found to work, call us at (360) 225-8750. **HAPPY GARDENING!!!**