DEER RESISTANT PLANTS

Recommended for Pender County Landscapes

Pender County Cooperative Extension

Urban Horticulture Fact Sheet 15



eer can wreak havoc on a landscape in a matter of just a few nights. There are many options to reduce the risk of deer damage in landscapes, such as applying repellents on a regular basis and restricting access through the use of fencing. One of the easiest ways to reduce deer damage in your yard is

to landscape with plants deer prefer not to eat. This fact sheet is intended to serve as a guide for choosing landscape plants resistant to deer feeding in southeastern North Carolina. Since a starving deer will eat anything to stay alive, no plant is guaranteed!

Deer Feeding Preferences

The plants deer prefer to eat vary from region to region and can even change seasonally. In the lists on the following pages, deer feeding preferences are classified as follows:

Frequently Damaged

Plants that are deer favorites. These are the first plants deer will seek out to feed on.

Occasionally Damaged

These are the plants deer will turn to once their favorites are depleted.

Seldom Damaged

Plant that deer will rarely eat unless there are no other options. Plants that are in **bold print** are extremely resistant to deer feeding.

Using a combination of a variety of methods to deter deer will give the most dependable results. To find out more about other strategies to minimize deer damage in your landscape, visit the online publications listed in the **Learn More** section at the end of this fact sheet.

Tips on Deer and Plants

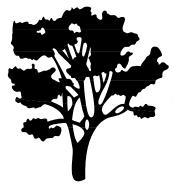
- No plant is deer proof! When hungry, deer will eat anything to survive. During stressful times such as drought, plants that are usually avoided may be damaged.
- Deer will eat almost anything in spring, as tender new growth emerges from plants. Deer prefer vegetation that is soft to the touch and high in water content. They especially relish flower buds.
- Over fertilized and over watered plants are particularly lush and appealing to deer.
- Deer resistant does not mean deer proof!

 These are plants deer prefer not to eat. Common characteristics of plants that deer prefer not to eat include:
 - ⇒ Plants with thorny or prickly leaves or stems
 - ⇒ Plants with strong scents and pungent tastes, such as herbs
 - ⇒ Plants that are poisonous or produce thick, latex-like sap
 - ⇒ Plants with hairy leaves

Table of Contents

Trees	. 2
Evergreen Shrubs	. 3
Palms	3
Deciduous Shrubs	. 4
Ornamental Grasses	.4
Groundcovers	
Ferns	.5
Vines	.5
Perennials	
Bulbs	.7
Annuals	7

LANDSCAPE TREES



Deer injure trees in two ways: By eating foliage and twigs, and by rubbing against the bark with their antlers, which is especially damaging to young trees or

those with thin bark. Wire cylinders and other protective devices are available to protect the trunks of young trees from this type of damage.

The shape and mature size of a tree will greatly determine its susceptibility to grazing damage. Damage is most common on trees that are either young and still small enough to reach, those that are low branched, or those that do not grow very large. In deer prone landscapes, trees that grow tall and hold their branches high are the best choice, though they may need to be protected until they are tall enough to be out of a deer's reach. Trees can be protected individually with wire cages, or planted in an area of the landscape that is fenced off.

* = Plants native to the Southeastern USA **Bold** plants are particularly resistant to deer feeding

Frequently Damaged		
Common Name	Scientific Name	
Redbud*	Cercis canadensis	
Atlantic White Cedar*	Chamaecyparis thyoides	
Fringe Tree, Old Man's Beard*	Chionanthus virginicus	
Crabapples	Malus species	
Cherries and Plums	Prunus species	
Pears	Pyrus species	

Occasionally Damaged		
Common Name	Scientific Name	
Japanese Maple	Acer palmatum	
Red Maple*	Acer rubrum	
Serviceberry*	Amelanchier species	
Dogwood*	Cornus florida	
Kousa Dogwood	Cornus kousa	
Witch Hazel	Hamamelis species	
'Foster's' Holly* 'Savannah' Holly* 'East Palatka' Holly*	Ilex x attenuata hybrids	
'Nellie Stevens' Holly	<i>Ilex</i> x 'Nellie Stevens'	
Goldenrain Tree	Koelreuteria paniculata	
Saucer Magnolia	Magnolia soulangiana	
Dawn Redwood	Metasequoia glyptostroboides	
Bradford Pear	Pyrus calleryana	
Oaks*	Quercus species	
Willows	Salix species	

Seldom Damaged		
Common Name	Scientific Name	
Red Buckeye*	Aesculus pavia	
River Birch*	Betula nigra	
Deodar Cedar	Cedrus deodora	
Hawthorn*	Crataegus species	
Japanese Cedar	Cryptomeria japonica	
Ginkgo	Ginkgo biloba	
Honey Locust*	Gleditsia triacanthos	
American Holly*	Ilex opaca	
Eastern Redcedar*	Juniperus virginiana	
Crape Myrtle	Lagerstroemia hybrids	
Southern Magnolia*	Magnolia grandiflora	
Sweetbay Magnolia*	Magnolia virginica	
Black Gum*	Nyssa sylvatica	
Pines*	Pinus species	
Carolina Cherrylaurel*	Prunus caroliniana	
Japanese Flowering Cherry	Prunus serrulata	
Live Oak*	Quercus virginiana	
Bald Cypress*	Taxodium distichum	
Chastetree	Vitex agnus-castus	

EVERGREEN SHRUBS

Se	Idom Damaged
Common Name	Scientific Name
Abelia	Abelia x grandiflora
Century Plant	Agave americana
Wintergreen Barberry	Berberis julianae
Japanese Boxwood	Buxus microphylla
Bottlebrush	Callistemon rigidus
Plum Yew	Cephalotaxus harringtonia
Summersweet, Pepperbush*	Clethra alnifolia
Eleagnus	Eleagnus pungens
Loquat	Eriobotrya japonica
Pineapple Guava	Acca sellowiana
Gardenia	Gardenia jasminoides
Chinese Holly	Ilex cornuta
Inkberry	Ilex glabra
Yaupon	Ilex vomitoria
Anise Shrub	Illicium species
Chinese Juniper	Juniperus chinensis
Kerria	Kerria japonica
Leucothoe	Leucothoe species
Japanese Privet	Ligustrum japonicum
Loropetalum	Loropetalum chinensis
Banana Shrub	Michelia fuscata
Wax Myrtle	Myrica cerifera
Nandina	Nandina domestica
Oleander	Nerium oleander
Tea Olive	Osmanthus fragrans Osmanthus heterophyllus
Southern Yew	Podocarpus macrophyllus
Pyracantha	Pyracantha species and varieties
Rosemary	Rosmarinus officinalis
Sweet Box	Sarcococca species
Yucca	Yucca species

^{* =} Plants native to the Southeastern USA **Bold** plants are particularly resistant to deer feeding

Occasionally Damaged		
Common Name	Scientific Name	
Camellias	Camellia species and varieties	
Rose of Sharon	Hibiscus syriacus	
Japanese Holly	Ilex crenata	
Mahonia	Mahonia bealei	
Viburnum	Viburnum species and varieties	

Frequently Damaged		
Common Name	Scientific Name	
Japanese Euonymous	Euonymous japonicus	
Wintercreeper	Euonymous fortunei	
Fatsia	Fatsia japonica	
Aucuba	Aucuba japonica	
Indian Hawthorn	Raphiolepis species and varieties	
Pittosporum	Pittosporum tobira	
Azaleas	Rhododendron species and varieties	
Arborvitae	Thuja occidentalis	

PALMS

As a group, palms are **very resistant** to deer feeding. The following palms are hardy in New Hanover County and make interesting landscape additions.

TRUNK FORMING PALMS

Windmill Palm, Trachycarpus fortunei Jelly or Pindo Palm, Butia capitata Palmetto or Cabbage Palm*, Sabal palmetto

SHRUB FORMING PALMS

Dwarf Palmetto*, Sabal minor
Needle Palm*, Rhapidophyllum hystrix
Saw Palmetto*, Serenoa repens
Mediterranean Fan Palm, Chamaerops humilis

For more information about growing hardy palms, consult the **Palm Reader**, the website of the Southeastern Palm and Exotic Plant Society:

http://www.ces.uga.edu/agriculture/ horticulture/palmeader.html

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

Frequently Damaged	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Burning Bush	Euonymous alata
Roses	Rosa species and hybrids
Blueberries*	Vaccinium species

Occasionally Damaged		
Common Name	Scientific Name	
Flowering Quince	Chaenomeles speciosa	
Smokebush	Cotinus coggyria	
Forsythia, Yellowbells	Forsythia x intermedia	
Hydrangea	Hydrangea macrophyllus Hydrangea paniculata	
Virginia Sweetspire*	Itea virginica	
Japanese Spirea	Spiraea x bumalda, Spiraea japonica	
Thunberg Spirea	Spiraea thunbergia	
Viburnum	Viburnum species	
Weigela	Weigela florida	

Seldom Damaged		
Common Name	Scientific Name	
Japanese Barberry	Berberis thunbergii	
Butterflybush	Buddleia davidii	
Sweetshrub*	Calycanthus floridus	
American Beautyberry*	Callicarpa americana	
Blue Mist Shrub	Caryopteris x clandonensis	
Deutzia	Deutzia gracilis	
Fothergilla*	Fothergilla gardenii	
Winter Jasmine	Jasminum nudiflorum	
Spring Flowering Spireas	Spiraea cantoniensis, S. nipponica, Spiraea x vanhouttei	

^{* =} Plants native to the Southeastern USA **Bold** plants are particularly resistant to deer feeding

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

In general, ornamental grasses are avoided by deer and should be considered **highly resistant** to deer grazing. There are lots of different types of ornamental grasses available. Most are long lived and tough, making attractive and low maintenance additions to the landscape. They provide a nice contrast to shrubs and can be planted in mass as a groundcover. The following ornamental grasses are recommended for area landscapes:

Korean Feather Reed Grass

Calamagrostis brachytricha
River Oats*

Chasmanthium latifolium

Pampas Grass

Cortaderia selloeana

Maiden Grass

Miscanthus sinensis

Pink Muhly Grass* *Muhlenbergia capillaris*

Blue Muhly Grass*

Dide Wally Grass

Muhlenbergia lindheimeri

Panic Grass*

Panicum virgatum

Fountain Grass

Pennisetum alopecuriodes & Pennisetum orientale

Indian Grass*

Sorghastrum nutans



For more information about these and other ornamental grasses, see the plant list on ornamental grasses, available from the NHC Cooperative Extension office or online at

www.gardeningnhc.org

Click on the plant information link to access this and many other lists of recommended plants!

VINES AND GROUNDCOVERS

Frequently Damaged	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Clematis	Clematis species and hybrids
Wintercreeper	Euonymous fortunei
English Ivy	Hedera helix

Occasionally Damaged		
Common Name	Scientific Name	
Trumpet Vine*	Campis radicans	
Goldflame Honeysuckle	Lonicera x heckrottii	
Clumping Liriope	Liriope muscari	
Spreading Liriope	Liriope spicata	
Virginia Creeper*	Parthenocissus quinquifolia	
Lady Banks Rose	Rosa banksia	
Japanese Wisteria	Wisteria floribunda	

Seldom Damaged		
Common Name	Scientific Name	
Ajuga, Bugleweed	Ajuga reptans	
Crossvine*	Bignonia capreolata	
Climbing Fig	Ficus pumila	
Carolina Jessamine	Gelsemium sempervirens	
Junipers	Juniperus species	
Coral Honeysuckle*	Lonicera sempervirens	
Patridgeberry*	Mitchella repens	
Mondo Grass	Ophiopogon japonicus	
Cherokee Rose	Rosa laevigata	
Creeping Rosemary	Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus'	
Star Jasmine	Trachelopsermum asiaticum	
Confederate Jasmine	Trachelospermum jasminoides	
Large Leaf Periwinkle	Vinca major	
Periwinkle, Vinca	Vinca minor	

*= Plants native to the Southeastern USA **Bold** plants are particularly deer resistant

MORE GROUNDCOVER POSSIBILITIES

There are many perennials, ornamental grasses, and low growing shrubs that make excellent groundcovers when planted in masses.

To find out about more plants recommended for use as groundcovers in New Hanover



County, see the plant list on recommended groundcovers available from the New Hanover County Cooperative Extension office or online at:

www.gardeningnhc.org

Click on the plant information to link to access many lists of recommended plants!

FERNS

Deer rarely browse fern foliage, making them an excellent addition to deer ravaged landscapes. Most ferns prefer shade and moist soil and are attractive combined with shrubs and perennials or used as a groundcover. The following ferns are recommended for use in New Hanover County landscapes.

EVERGREEN FERNS

Autumn Fern,

Dryopteris erythrosora

Christmas Fern*,

Polystichum acrostichoides

Florida Shield Fern*,

Dryopteris ludoviciana

Holly Fern,

Cyrtomium falcatum

Tassel Fern,

Polystichum polyblepharum

DECIDUOUS FERNS

Southern Maidenhair Fern*,

Adiantum capillus-veneris

Lady Fern*, Athyrium filix-femina

Japanese Painted Fern, Athyrium nipponicum var. pictum

Royal Fern*, Osmunda regalis

Cinnamon Fern*, Osmunda cinnamomea

Southern Shield Fern*, Thelypteris kunthii

PERENNIALS

Frequently Damaged		
Common Name	Scientific Name	
Daylilies	Hemerocallis species and hybrids	
Hosta	Hosta species and varieties	

Occasionally Damaged		
Common Name	Scientific Name	
Shasta Daisy	Chrysanthemum x superbum	
Hardy Ice Plant	Delosperma cooperi	
Gerbera Daisy	Gerbera jamesonii	
Hardy Hibiscus*	Hibiscus moscheutos	
Evergreen Candytuft	Iberis sempervirens	
Iris	Iris species and hybrids	
Phlox*	Phlox species	
Black Eyed Susan*	Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldstrum'	
Sedum	Sedum species	
Stoke's Aster*	Stokesia laevis	
Verbena*	Verbena canadensis	
Speedwell, Veronica	Veronica spicata	

HERBS AS ORNAMENTALS

Deer tend to avoid plants with strong fragrances, which makes many herbs great choices for deer prone land-scapes. In general, herbs grow best in full sun and well drained soils. The following perennial herbs are attractive in the landscape and grow well in New Hanover County.

Thyme, Thymus species
Fennel, Foeniculum vulgare
Sage, Salvia officianalis
Chives, Allium schoenoprasum
Oregano, Oreganum species
Mint Marigold, Tagetes lucida
Tansy, Tanacetum vulgare
Anise Hyssop, Agastache foeniculum
Southernwood, Artemisia abrotanum
Mexican Oregano, Poliomentha longiflora
French or Spanish Lavender, Lavandula stoechas
Lavender Cotton, Santolina chamaecyparissus and S. virens

Also, annual herbs such as **basil**, **parsley**, and **perilla** make great additions to containers or bedding displays!

Seldom Damaged		
Common Name	Scientific Name	
Yarrow	Achillea species and hybrids	
Blue Star*	Amsonia species	
Columbine	Aquilegia species	
'Powis Castle' Artemisia	Artemisia x 'Powis Castle'	
Butterflyweed*	Asclepias tuberosa	
Cast Iron Plant	Aspidistra elatior	
False Indigo*	Baptisia species	
Angel's Trumpet	Brugmansia species and hybrids	
Leadwort	Ceratostigma plumbaginoides	
Green and Gold*	Chrysogonum virginianum	
Coreopsis*	Coreopsis species and hybrids	
Dianthus	Dianthus gratianopolitanus	
Purple Coneflower*	Echinacea purpurea	
Joe Pye Weed*	Eupatorium dubium	
Gaura*	Gaura lindheimeri	
Blanket Flower	Gaillardia x grandiflora	
Lenten Rose	Helleborus orientalis	
Coralbells, Alumroot*	Heuchera species and hybrids	
Red Hot Poker	Kniphofia species	
Lantana	Lantana species	
Sleeping Hibsicus*	Malvaviscus drummondii	
Bee Balm*	Monarda didyma	
Catmint	Nepeta species and hybrids	
Russian Sage	Perovskia hybrids and varieties	
Mexican Petunia	Ruellia brittoniana	
Texas Sage*	Salvia greggii	
Anise Sage	Salvia guaranitica	
Mexican Bush Sage	Salvia leucantha	
Purple Heart	Setcreasia purpurea	
'Fireworks' Goldenrod*	Solidago rugosa 'Fireworks'	
Lamb's Ear	Stachys byzantina	
Society Garlic	Tuhlbughia violacea	
Prickly Pear *	Opuntia species	

ANNUALS

Frequently Damaged		
Common Name	Scientific Name	
Celosia	Celosia argentea	
Impatiens	Impatiens species	
Sweet Potato	Ipomoea batatas	
Johnny Jump Ups	Viola tricolor	
Pansies	Viola x wittrockiana	

Occasionally Damaged		
Common Name	Scientific Name	
Flowering Kale	Brasscia oleacea	
Sunflowers	Helianthus annuus	
Moss Rose, Purslane	Portulaca species	
Mexican Sunflower	Tithonia rotundifolia	

Seldom Damaged		
Common Name	Scientific Name	
Ageratum	Ageratum houstonianum	
Snapdragons	Antirrhinum majus	
Begonia	Begonia semperflorens	
Ornamental Peppers	Capsicum species	
Cleome	Cleome hassleriana	
Coleus	Solenostemon scutellariodes	
Cosmos	Cosmos bipinnatus	
Polka Dot Plant	Hypoestes phyllostachya	
Melampodium	Melampodium padulosum	
Pentas	Pentas lanceolata	
Mexican Oregano	Plectranthus species	
Mealycup Sage	Salvia farinacea	
Marigold	Tagetes species	
Curry Plant	Helichrysum angustifolium	
Vinca	Catharanthus roseus	
Dusty Miller	Senecio cineraria	
Zinnias	Zinnia species	
Petunias	Petunia species	



Sometimes there are plants you just want to grow no matter what. Maybe it was one of your mother's favorites or something that reminds you of a special occasion in your life. What happens if you have deer problems and one of your 'can't live without it' plants happens to be a deer favorite? Fencing off you entire yard can be very expensive, while constantly reapplying repellents soon becomes a time consuming task.

One approach creative gardeners have borrowed from the xeriscape concept is to divide the landscape into **zones**. Deer prone plants are only planted in areas **closest** to the house, that are easiest to manage intensely. This zone is either protected from deer by fencing or regular application of repellents. In the area fartherest away from the house only **highly deer resistant plants** are used. In the mid-zone, or area between, less resistant plants can be used with the understanding that they may receive **occasional** damage.

BULBS

Frequently Damaged

Tulips and **Crocus** are deer favorites! Neither perennialize well in this area and should be treated like annuals. Summer blooming **Lilies** are also frequently eaten by deer.

Occasionally Damaged

Grape Hyacinths (*Muscari* species) and **Dahlias** are both occasionally browsed by deer. Both perennialize fairly well in southeastern North Carolina.

Seldom Damaged

Many of the bulbs that come back reliably year after year in this area are also deer resistant. Spring blooming perennial bulbs include **Daffodils**, **Summer Snowflake** (*Leucojum aestivalis*), **Amaryllis**, **Scillas**, and **Ornamental Onions** (*Allium* species).

Deer resistant summer blooming perennial bulbs include **Agapanthus**, **Crinum Lilies**, **Crocosmias**, **Oxalis**, **Colchicum**, and **Hardy Cyclamen** (*Cyclamen hederifolium*).

LEARN MORE!

The following online resources can help you learn more about how to manage deer and reduce damage:

NCSU Wildlife Publication—Deer

http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/wild/pdf/wildl

Designing for Deer Resistance, Jeff Chorba Design http://home.ptd.net/~jchorba/green1.htm ife/DEER.PDF

Deer Control Options, ATTRA factsheet http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/deercontrol.html

For More Information

about the plants listed and other garden and landscape topics:

WEBSITES

For more detailed information about each plant and to see images, visit the **Plant Fact Sheets** on the **NC Cooperative Extension Consumer Horticulture website**: www.ncstate-plants.net

More fact sheets of recommended plants and other local garden and landscape information is available from the **Pender**County Cooperative Extension website at http://pender.ces.ncsu.edu.

VISIT US!

If you have questions about plant selection and maintenance, lawn care, vegetable gardening or plant pest problems, call or visit your local North Carolina Cooperative Extension office. The **Pender County Cooperative Extension Center** is located at 801 South Walker Street in Burgaw. Our office hours are 8am—5pm, Monday—Friday. Contact us by telephone at (910) 259-6361. For residents of other counties in North Carolina, find out how to contact your local Cooperative Extension office at http://ces.ncsu.edu.

Prepared by:

Charlotte Glen, Extension Agent

Agriculture—Horticulture

North Carolina Cooperative Extension – Pender County Center



Distributed in furtherance of the acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30,1914. North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.