

Deer are Disinclined to Eat These

We cannot say “Deer Proof”...

...but here are a few perennials that stubbornly oppose being eaten. Some actually repel deer. Try these species first if you're on their migratory route or if you have a herd in your back yard.

Botanical taxonomy has always influenced the organization of the **Villager Nursery's** perennial benches. We tend to group plants by Family. Over the years we've derived a list of perennials which seem to have strong recalcitrance toward the deer in this part of the Sierra. No surprise; we found certain plant families better than others at surviving predation.

Mint Family

Giant Hyssop
Ajuga
Yellow Archangel
Hyssop
Yellow Archangel / Dead Nettle
Spotted Dead Nettle
English Lavender
Mint
Bee Balm
Catmint
Wild Marjoram / Oregano
Obedient Plant
Self-Heal
Sage
Skullcap
Lamb's Ears
Betony
Germander
Thyme

Pinks family

Sandwort
Snow-in-summer
Sweet William
Carnation
Rainbow Pink
Maiden Pink
Cheddar Pink
Cottage Pink
Clove Pink
Baby's Breath
Creeping Baby's Breath
Arctic Campion
Maltese Cross
Rose Campion / Mullein Pink
Catchfly
Irish Moss / Pearlwort
Scotch Moss
Tumbling Ted
Bouncing-Bet
Soap-wort
Alpine Catchfly
Sweet William Catchfly

Geranium Family

Yellow Crane's Bill
Johnson's Blue Geranium
Biokovo Geranium
Himalayan Geranium
Big-root Geranium
Bloody Crane's Bill
Hardy Geranium

Lamiaceae

Agastache spp.
Ajuga reptans
Galeobdolon spp.
Hyssopus officinalis
Lamium galeobdolon
Lamium maculatum
Lavendula angustifolia
Mentha spp.
Monarda spp.
Nepeta spp.
Origanum vulgare
Physostegia virginiana
Prunella spp.
Salvia spp.
Scutellaria spp.
Stachys olympica
Stachys spp.
Teucrium Chamaedryis
Thymus spp.

Caryophyllaceae

Arenaria spp.
Cerastium tomentosum
Dianthus barbatus
Dianthus Caryophyllus
Dianthus chinensis
Dianthus deltoides
Dianthus gratianopolitanus
Dianthus plumarius
Dianthus spp.
Gypsophila paniculata
Gypsophila repens
Lychnis alpina
Lychnis chalconica
Lychnis coronaria
Lychnis spp.
Sagina subulata
Sagina subulata
Saponaria ocymoides
Saponaria officinalis
Saponaria spp.
Silene alpestris
Silene Armeria

Geraniaceae

Erodium chrysanthemum
G. magnificum x *G. himalayense*
Geranium x *cantabrigiense*
Geranium himalayense
Geranium macrorrhizum
Geranium sanguinum
Geranium x *magnificum*

Figwort family

Snapdragon
Slipperwort / Pocketbook
Turtle Head
Chinese Houses / Blue-Lips
Kenilworth Ivy
Twinspur
Foxglove
Toadflax
Common Monkeyflower
Lewis' Monkeyflower
Beard-Tongue
Rocky Mt. Penstemon
Cape Fuchsia
Mullien
Speedwell
Veronicastrum

Onion & Lily Families

Ornamental Onion
Brodiaea
Autumn Crocus
Crocasmia
Crown Imperial Fritillaria
Checker Lily
Snowdrop
Red-Hot-Poker
Grape Hyacinth
Dafodills
Solomon's Seal
Siberian Squill
Triteleia

Shrubs (only a few...)

Barberry
Blue Boy / Girl Holly
Mugo Pine
Rhododendron & Azalea
Skunkbush
William Baffin Rose
Goldflame Spiraea
Lilac

Scrophulariaceae

Antirrhinum spp.
Calceolaria falklandia
Chelone spp.
Collinsia spp.
Cymbalaria muralis
Diascia spp.
Digitalis spp.
Linaria spp.
Mimulus guttatus
Mimulus Lewisii
Penstemon spp.
Penstemon strictus
Phygelius spp.
Verbascum spp.
Veronica spp.
Veronicastrum sp.

Allium spp.
Brodiaea hyacinthina
Colchicum autumnale
Crocasmia sp.
Fritillaria imperialis
Fritillaria meleagris
Galanthus spp.
Kniphofia spp.
Muscari armeniacum
Narcissus spp.
Polygonatum spp.
Scilla siberica
Triteleia grandiflora

Berberis thunbergii
Ilex x *meserveae*
Pinus mugo
Rhododendron spp.
Rhus trilobata
Rosa 'William Baffin' (allegedly)
Spiraea x *bumalda* 'Goldflame'
Syringa spp.

Other Deer Repellent Plant Traits

Look for plants with fuzzy, silvery foliage, waxy foliage, or strong fragrance (essential oils). Native plants are often eaten less but only after a couple of years in the ground as they assume the local terroir

Products and Preparations

Home remedies: Human hair, Hot Pepper Wax, Irish Spring soap, fox urine

Effective Products:

Liquid Fence, Cocoa Mulch, Scarecrow motion activated sprinkler, Ropel, Deer / Bird Netting, Fido-shock small electric fence, Hinder, Plant-Skydd, Big-Game Repellent, Not-Tonight-Deer, Ropel, Natura & Repellex Systemics.