

Deer Resistant Plants



Monkshood (*Aconitum carmichaelii 'Arendsii'*) - 4' tall, 12" wide, zones 4-7, partial shade. Rich blue flowers on sturdy stems in midautumn.



Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla sp.*) - 18" tall and wide, zones 4-7, full sun and partial shade. Useful accent for edging even in partially shaded areas, with bounteous chartreuse flowers in June. Water droplets stay on the hexagonal leaves long into the day for an eye-catching, jeweled appearance. Clumps expand to shade out weeds.



Ornamental Chives (*Allium sp.*) - 6-12" tall, zones 4-9, full sun. Globe-shaped flowers fascinate me for their gravity-defying structure. Even though these Alliums are all under a foot tall, they will catch your eye accenting shrubs or borders. Foliage has enough onion smell to keep those deer at bay.



Silver Mound (*Artemisia schmidtiana*) - 10-12" tall, 18" wide, zones 5-8, full sun. Spreads to form a silvery carpet of deeply toothed, almost silky leaves. Adds a unique texture to your garden while providing a great backdrop for your brighter blooms. Very hardy.



Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias*) - 2-4' tall, zones 5-9, full sun. Displays its flowers over a long period and has seeds that show off by puffing up like cotton and floating through the air on cool autumn days. Butterfly larvae sometimes feed on the leaves, returning as butterflies to enjoy the flower nectar. *Asclepias* emerges late in the spring (remember where you plant them and take care not to damage them before they sprout). It prefers a well drained soil and is tolerant of drought.



Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia Davidii*) - 4-6' tall, zones 5-9, full sun. Large colorful trusses of fragrant flowers attract butterflies. *Buddleia* is a shrub but in cold-winter zones, treat it like a perennial. Prune back to live wood in spring (often nearly to the ground). Great choice for quick height this season.



Boxwood (*Buxus sp.*) - 2-3' tall, zones 4-8, full sun, partial shade and/or full shade. Here's a deer-country dream come true! The woody, natural form looks great as a rounded contrast in a natural setting or as a formal edging. One of the few evergreens that the deer don't eat!



Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) - 2' tall and 3' wide, zones 4-6, full sun to part shade, well drained, slightly acidic soil. Evergreen, bushy shrub. Blooms in late summer with white, pink, lavender, purple with silver, green and yellow foliage varieties.



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Common Sweetshrub, Carolina Allspice (*Calycanthus floridus*) - Grows 3' to 5' tall and spreads by stolons, zones 5-10. Does well in full sun, part sun, shade, wet or dry soils. A good plant for many areas because of its sweet smell and tolerance of any condition. Flowers red or maroon in April for a month or longer. Can bloom April-June. Flowers have good strawberry fragrance. Degree of fragrance depends on weather conditions and seedling variation.



American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) - Grows to 30', zones 5-10, likes moist, rich soils, but will grow in a variety of conditions, and is tolerant of shade. Generally grows in the understory of hardwood forests. slow-growing short-lived tree in the understory of eastern mixed hardwood forests. The short, often crooked trunk covered with a smooth slate gray bark is characteristically ridged, resembling the muscles of a flexed arm.



Redosier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) - Grows 6-10' tall, 10-12' wide, zones 4-8, full sun to part shade. Many-stemmed, tall shrub. Takes partial shade, 1-3" clusters of white flowers in spring, followed by white berries in August. Bright red stems give striking winter interest. Habitat is moist soils, swamps, streamsides, and upland forest. Landscape uses: erosion control, wet areas, groupings, borders, hedges, and screens.



Royal Purple Smokebush (*Cotinus coggygria royal purple*) - 15' tall, 15' wide, zones 4-8, full sun. The rich burgundy foliage of this shrub makes a stunning effect in your garden. Its tiny spring blooms change to lacey, plume-like seed clusters by summer, crating a cloud fo "smoke" throughout the plant. This is a tough and tolerant shrub that can withstand drought once established. Thrives in full to part sun—leaves are greener in shade, burgundy in full sun.



Daphne (*Daphne mezereum 'Alba'*) - 2-3' tall and wide, zones 5-8, full sun, partial shade. This great shrub is toxic and the deer know it! Be sure to plant where you can enjoy three seasons of show: small white blooms about the time crocus bloom, bright red berries in summer and green leaves into fall.



Nikko (*Deutzia sp.*) - 1-2' tall, 3-5' wide, zones 5-8, full sun to part shade, medium moisture. Low maintenance shrub with white flowers that bloom in spring.



Dianthus 16" tall, 24" wide, full sun and can tolerate drought once established. Pink, white & red varieties. Blooms through the summer, and deadheading will help to keep plants looking tidy and prolong the season. The silvery-green foliage makes a good background for the mass of pink flowers, but even when not in flower the low creeping evergreen mats make a good background for surrounding plants.



Deer Resistant Plants



Bleeding Hearts (*Dicentra sp.*) - 3' tall, 4' wide, zones 4-9, full sun, partial shade to shade. It's nice to have plants that grow so easily, look so good and are deer-resistant - especially plants that sprout in early spring. Vigorous favorite with pink heart-shaped blooms in early spring. (Foliage starts to die back in midsummer so design your planting with shorter plants in front of it.)



Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) - (Excelsior on left, snow thimble on right) 4' tall, zones 4-8, full sun, partial shade. Even where deer are not a problem, it's a favorite for its height and long bloom time. Vigorous annual growth requires moist soil with some organic matter in it. (Biennials live only two years but usually reseed themselves.)



Bicolor Barrenwort (*Epimedium x versicolor sulphureum*) - '12" tall, to 36" wide, zones 5-8, shade or part shade. Bicolor Barrenwort. Clusters of small yellow flowers top young, red-flushed leaves in spring. Great groundcover for dry shade! Leaves stay green through winter. Slowly spreads by rhizomes.



Cushion spurge (*Euphorbia polychroma*) - 12-16" tall, 24" wide, zones 4-8, full sun. Cushion spurge; syn. epithymoides. Mounded clump packed with yellow flowers (technically cyathia and involucre) from midspring to midsummer.



American Beech (*Fagus grandiflora*) - 50' - 70' tall, 120' wide, zone 4, full sun best—does not like overly wet soils. A wide spreading deciduous tree. Trunk is short and branches generally touch ground. If tree is in crowded conditions, tree will assume a more upright habit. Slow growth rate.



Forsythia - 10' tall, 15' wide, full sun to partial shade. An early flowering deciduous shrub. Profuse flowers 2-5cm (1-2 in) are bright golden yellow. Prune old woody growth at ground level to help maintain a vigorous plant by stimulating the growth of new stems. Prune after flowering finishes as next years flowers are produced on stems that grow during the current summer.



Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) - 70' tall, full sun, tolerates poor soil. The green ash is a medium-sized, deciduous tree with opposite buds and pinnately compound leaves. Its growth rate is rapid, and mature height is 50-60 feet. Bark is furrowed into diamond-shaped ridges.



Sweet Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*) - 8" tall, zones 4-7; partial shade to shade. Woodland ground cover spreads by rhizomes. Star shaped scented leaves encourage the deer to pass by. Small white flowers in spring.



Deer Resistant Plants



Broom (*Genista tinctoria* 'Royal Gold') - 3' tall and wide, zones 3-8, full sun. Conical-shaped panicles up to 3" long of golden yellow flowers adorn this deciduous shrub from spring to early summer. Adapts to poor soil.



Geranium 9-12" tall, zones 5-8, full sun to partial shade. Geraniums are hardy to Zone 5 and feature pleasantly fragrant and deer-resistant foliage. They spread slowly to form long-blooming mats of color, useful as ground cover or front-of-the-border feature. Dark pink flowers in early summer on low growing, slowly spreading ground cover. Delightful aromatic foliage turns red in fall.



Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) - 40-70' tall, 20-30' wide, zones 3-9, full sun and range of soil types, but does not like wet soil. Form is pyramidal; irregular horizontal branches; picturesque. Deciduous tree with emerald green fan shaped leaves and yellow fall color.



St. John's Wort (*Hypericum sp.*) - 30" tall and wide, zones 5-7, full sun to partial shade. Hardy, tightly mounded shrub produces masses of 1" golden yellow flowers in midsummer. Plants tolerate hard pruning if they become too large.



Siberian Iris (*Iris siberica*) - 4" wide, 28" tall, zones 4-9, full sun. Beautiful, grassy foliage makes a good contrast in any garden. Drought resistant and also do well in moist soil. Once established, there's no weeding these expanding clumps. Hybrids.



Juniper (*Juniperus sp.*) - Grows to a height of 3 to 10 feet with an equal spread. Form can be variable from low and spreading to an erect shrub. Cones are berry-like. Leaves are evergreen needles but can turn light brown during the winter. Tolerant of a wide variety of soils. Grows best with full sun. Zones 2-6. Native.



Dead Nettles (*Lamium sp.*) - 4-6" tall, zones 4-9, partial to full shade. Colorful leaves and tolerance of ordinary soil make this a popular ground cover. Silver leaves lined with green with white flowers in May-June.



Lavender (*Lavandula*) - Full sun, zones 5-10, many varieties differing in heights and widths. Famous for their fragrance. Prune in spring to 6-8" to induce vigorous new growth. An old favorite, Lavender "Munstead" is a dependable performer blooming with pleasing lavender blue flowers. The flower color is sometimes variable as is the plant size.



Deer Resistant Plants



Leucothoe axillaris, Coast Leucothoe - 4' tall, zones 6-8, partial shade, moist soil. Evergreen shrub with arching branches; dark green glossy leaves may bronze in winter; withstands heat and humidity; needs a few hours of direct sun and good air circulation to prevent leaf spot disease. White to pink flushed flowers in early spring.



Melissa - Lemon Balm 18-24" tall, space 18," zones 4-7, full sun. Decorative plant does well in poor, well drained soil. Lemony scented leaves foil the deer. Golden yellow leaves stand out all season plus white flowers tinted pale lilac appear irregularly throughout the summer.



Monarda - Bee Balm 3' tall, zones 4-8, full sun, partial shade. When you are not watching hummingbirds fighting each other over the air rights to your Monarda, you'll be enjoying the fantastic blossoms! Very aromatic foliage sends Bambi to browse elsewhere. Plants spread rapidly to form a showy mass. They prefer moisture-retentive soil.



Northern Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*) - Typically grows from 5 to 6 feet high but can reach 10 feet. Spreads easily and forms colonies. Often found in coastal areas. Foliage is semi evergreen aromatic. Will grow well in dry, infertile, sandy, acidic soils. Grows best in full sun but will tolerate partial shade. Zones 2-6. Native.



Peony (*Paeonia sp.*) - 30-36" tall, zones 3-8, full sun to part shade. Variety of colors, bloom times range from spring to early summer. Stunning cut flower. Avoid planting your peony too deeply and be patient with it as it can take a few years to settle in before it begins to flower - the blooms are well worth the wait!



Oriental Poppy (*Papaver Orientale*) - 30" tall, zones 3-7, full sun. Make your neighbors jealous with this superbly beautiful Oriental poppy. Deeply cupped pure white satiny petals, each with a pure black blob at its base is borne above toothed, hairy foliage. Oriental poppies love to be planted in the Fall for bloom the following Spring. They love rich soil and feeding and regular watering.



Spruce (*Picea sp.*) -Prefers full sun, acidic soils, hardy to zone 3. Norway (pict left), White & Black are all deer resistant. Evergreen trees. Dwarf varieties exist for all. Standard growth is conical, 40-60' tall, 30-35' wide. Need to allow room for growth.



Andromeda (*Pieris sp.*) - 6-8' tall, 8-10' wide, zone 4-7, full sun. A broadleaved evergreen shrub, most Pieris varieties have abundant white flowers, although some cultivars, notably 'Christmas Cheer' have pink blossoms. The fruits are not showy.



Deer Resistant Plants



Potentilla (*Potentilla cinquefoil*) - 2-3' tall, 5' wide, zones 3-7, full sun. White or yellow flowers throughout the summer. Blue-green foliage, spreading habit. The name Potentilla comes from the Greek "potens," meaning powerful, from reputed medicinal qualities. Enjoy the summer-long flowering qualities of these selections and your deer will leave the taste testing to the drug companies. These tough, deciduous shrubs thrive in almost any soil.



Low Grow Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low'*) - 24-30" tall, 6-8' spread, zones 4-9, full sun, partial shade. A tall, spreading ground cover or short hedge with glossy green foliage and superb orange-red fall color.



Meadow Sage (*Salvia sp.*) - 18" tall, space 15," zones 5-9, full sun. Here is another fresh-smelling plant that the deer just can't stand. You'll enjoy the midsummer spikes of colorful blooms year after year. Closest to true blue. Likes sunny spot in well drained soil.



Spiraea (*Spiraea sp.*) - Grows 2 feet high with 3 to 4 feet spread. Dwarf spirea with pinkish purple flowers in mid summer. Yellow-red new growth makes this spirea attractive all season. Best in full sun, tolerates shade, but will flower less. Moist soil. Zones 4 -8.



Lambs' Ears (*Stachys byzantina*) - 16" tall, 24" wide, full sun, hardy perennial. Lambs' ears is a well-known ground-covering perennial, popular for its soft, fluffy foliage. Plants flower in mid-summer, and the thick silvery-felty stems with knotty buds are quite a feature. Once established, plants are reasonably drought-tolerant, making this a good choice for a dry sunny border or gravel garden.



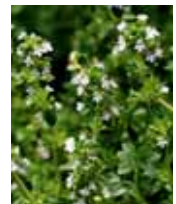
Lilac (*Syringa sp.*) - 15' tall, most varieties spread by suckering. Prefers full sun and alkaline soil. When your lilac finishes blooming, prune the spent flowers back to the point just above where the new buds are forming. Dead or damaged stems should be cut off, and a few of the oldest stems should be cut back to the ground.



Arborvitae (*Thuja sp.*) - Full Sun. 20-30' tall, 5-15' spread. Zones 2-8. Evergreen. Loose, tall pyramid with glossy dark-green foliage. Reported resistant to deer browse. Great as a windscreen or hedge. Will get leggy and less attractive in shade.



Thyme (*Thymus sp.*) - Varieties range from 2-10" tall, 6-10" spread, zones 5-9, full sun to partial shade. Foliage, flowers and fragrance! The word thymus is Greek for "courage," something the deer are missing when it comes to browsing thyme. Use for edging walks, in containers and among stepping stones. Useful as a garnish and in herb butters.



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Eastern Canadian Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) - 30-80' tall, 15-30' wide, full sun to shade, zones 3-7. Evergreen with slow to moderate growth. Can be trimmed to grow as a hedge. Very sensitive to wind and extreme heat.



Doublefile Viburnum (*Viburnum plicatum tomentosum*) - 8-10' tall, spreading habit; full sun to partial shade; hardy to zone 5. Requires moist, well-drained soils, suffers in both clay and drought. In late spring, *Viburnum plicatum* var. *tomentosum* produces masses of white flowers along horizontal branches. The resulting display can be absolutely outstanding, with the blossoms seemingly floating on air above the foliage.



Old Fashioned Weigela (*Weigela florida*) - 4-6' tall, 4-6' spread, zones 3-8, full sun and wide soil variety. Foliage is deep, purple-tinted green and forms a compact mound, reaching 6' when mature. Flowers bloom in early summer and again in late summer. Flowers attract hummingbirds. Suitable for shrub and mixed border.

