

Deer Resistant Plants

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Comments
Annuals & Perennials			
<i>Achillea</i> spp.	yarrow	18"-3'	Drought tolerant; prefers full sun.
<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	ageratum	6-24"	Beautiful blue, pink or white flowers; easy to grow.
<i>Allium</i> spp.	ornamental onion	1-4'	Many forms and species; tough and may self-seed.
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	columbine	1-3'	Short-lived, but self-seeds; showy flowers.
<i>Begonia semperflorens</i> & hybrids	wax begonia	8-2'	Dependable flowers; shade and drought tolerant.
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	coneflower	2-3'	Native; attracts birds and butterflies; well-drained soil.
<i>Heliotropium arborescens</i>	heliotrope	18-24"	Cherry-pie fragrance; tough, long lasting flowers.
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	sweet alyssum	4-12"	Edging and container plant; self-seeds.
<i>Narcissus</i> spp.	daffodil	6-24"	Poisonous to squirrels and deer; can be planted under trees.
<i>Paeonia lactiflora</i>	peony	2-3'	Long lasting perennial; may need staking; prefers full sun.
<i>Papaver</i> spp.	poppy	1-3'	Showy flowers; can self-seed; many species and cultivars.
<i>Pelargonium xhortorum</i>	geranium	12-18"	Cemetery plant; tough and drought resistant.
<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	Russian sage	3-4'	Drought tolerant; prefers full sun.
<i>Salvia farinacea</i>	blue salvia	24-30"	Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.
<i>Senecio cineraria</i>	dusty miller	6-15"	Silver-grey or white foliage; drought and cold tolerant.
<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	lamb's ear	6-15"	Silver foliage good for edging and front of border; drought tolerant.
<i>Tagetes</i> spp.	marigold	6"-3'	Long-lasting yellow, gold and bicolor flowers; easy to grow from seed.
Trees, Shrubs, & Vines			
<i>Barberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese barberry	2-5'	Thorny; many cultivars; red berries and red fall color; may be invasive.
<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	bittersweet	to 60'	Woody native vine with attractive berries.
<i>Forsythia</i> 'Northern Sun'	forsythia	8-10'	Fast growing, very hardy flower buds, tolerates a wide variety of soils.
<i>Juniperus chinensis</i>	Chinese juniper	2-6'	Many cultivars and forms; good for full sun and well-drained soil.
<i>Pinus mugo</i>	mugo pine	12-20'	Tolerant of alkaline, compacted or salty soils.
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots pine	25-50'	Evergreen with attractive bark.
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	lilac	8-15'	Showy fragrant flowers in spring; tolerant of many sites.
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	nannyberry	12-18'	Native shrub; fruits turn from red to blue; shade tolerant.

Deer damage to ornamental plants is very frustrating. You can minimize the damage they can do by avoiding plants they prefer and instead use these plants that deer avoid due to toxicity, fragrance or texture.

Compiled by Gilda Banfield, Olmsted County Master Gardener. Gilda has been gardening with deer for 30 years and has learned that the plants listed here are usually avoided by deer. She likes to remember that the deer were here first.



Peonies are long lived, cold tolerant perennials that deer rarely eat.



'Northern Sun' is a UM cold hardy introduction of forsythia, a shrub rarely eaten by deer.