

Native Deer Resistant Plants

Gardeners challenged by browsing deer often look for a definitive list of plants that deer will leave alone. Unfortunately, deer are not quite that predictable. In areas where high populations of deer have over-browsed the woodland understory, they are likely to eat any plant they can find to survive. Gardeners and habitat restorationists are strongly encouraged to use other appropriate barriers to exclude deer. Plants marked with an asterisk (*) may be browsed occasionally.

The list below was compiled from Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve (2002), The USFWS's Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping (2005), and The Flora of Delaware – An Annotated Checklist (2001).

Grasses and Grasslike Plants

<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big bluestem
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Tall switch panic grass

Herbaceous Plants

<i>Actaea pachypoda</i>	White baneberry
<i>Allium tricoccum</i>	Small white leek
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Red columbine
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-Pulpit
<i>Asarum canadense</i> *	Canada wild ginger
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly milkweed
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Wild crane's-bill
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Common sneezeweed
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Swamp rosemallow
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> *	Cardinal flower
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> *	Great blue lobelia
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Purple lupine
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i> *	Mayapple
<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	Greek valerian
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	Orange coneflower
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed susan
<i>Solidago species</i>	Goldenrod
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England aster
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's root

Herbaceous Emergents

<i>Iris prismatica</i>	Slender blueflag iris
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blueflag iris

Vines

<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	Climbing bittersweet
<i>Clematis virginiana</i> *	Virginia virgin's-bower
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Trumpet honeysuckle

Shrubs

<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	Hercules club
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Sweet pepperbush
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	American witch-hazel
<i>Hypericum densiflorum</i>	Bushy St. John's wort
<i>Ilex laevigata</i>	Smooth winterberry holly
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry holly
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain laurel
<i>Leucothoe racemosa</i>	Fetterbush
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush
<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	Bayberry
<i>Myrcia pennsylvanica</i>	Northern bayberry
<i>Spiraea alba</i>	Narrow-leaf meadow-sweet
<i>Spiraea latifolia</i>	Northern meadow-sweet
<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	Hardhack spiraea
<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	Maple-leaf viburnum
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrow-wood
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Smooth black-haw

Trees

<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box elder
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River birch
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	American hornberry
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern redbud
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Alternate-leaf dogwood
<i>Cornus florida</i> *	Flowering dogwood
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Persimmon
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American beech
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White ash
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green ash
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American holly
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Red cedar
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay magnolia
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black gum
<i>Pinus echinata</i>	Shortleaf pine
<i>Pinus rigida</i>	Pitch pine
<i>Pinus serotina</i>	Pond pine
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	Loblolly pine
<i>Pinus virginiana</i>	Virginia pine
<i>Quercus alba</i> *	White oak
<i>Quercus bicolor</i> *	Swamp white oak
<i>Quercus coccinera</i> *	Scarlet oak
<i>Quercus falcata</i> *	Southern red oak
<i>Quercus lyrata</i> *	Overcup oak
<i>Quercus marilandica</i> *	Blackjack oak

<i>Quercus michauxii</i> *	Swamp chestnut oak
<i>Quercus nigra</i> *	Water oak
<i>Quercus palustris</i> *	Pin oak
<i>Quercus phellos</i> *	Willow oak
<i>Quercus prinus</i> *	Chestnut oak
<i>Quercus rubra</i> *	Northern red oak
<i>Quercus stellata</i> *	Post oak
<i>Quercus velutina</i> *	Black oak