



RABBIT & DEER

Resistant Plants

Food for Thought!

- When populations are high and food scarce, deer and rabbits will nibble on almost any plant (**including roses**), so no plant is guaranteed to be 100% deer or rabbit proof.
- Local populations may even develop a “taste” for plants that deer and rabbits in other regions may avoid.
- There are 2 general strategies for protecting vulnerable or existing plants from nibbling deer and rabbits:
 - Physical barriers:
 - Fall to spring: Wrap or cage specific vulnerable plants with sturdy materials such as poultry wire or snow fencing.
 - “Nite Guard” a small red light that imitates the eyes of deer predators, placed near plants
 - Sprinklers with a motion detector, send a blast of water to scare deer
 - Bad smell or taste:
 - Odours of predators: “Plantskydd” or Coyote urine
These products must be reapplied after a rain.
 - Odours of rotting food: “Bobbex” and “Deer Away”
These products bond to plants and do not wash off. The odour is not strong to the human nose.
 - A diluted solution of hot sauce (15 millilitres of hot sauce in four to five litres of water) sprayed directly on fruits and vegetables or around the perimeter of the garden may deter rabbits.
- General plant characteristics that **deer and rabbits avoid**:
 - Fragrant or aromatic plants such as rosemary, oregano, lavender, sage etc. (they don’t like the strong odours)
 - Fuzzy leaves (must be like eating Velcro!)
 - Prickly leaves or stems
 - Ornamental grasses (difficult for deer to chew)-but rabbits will eat Blue Fescue and some others
- Vegetables that **rabbits avoid**: asparagus, tomatoes, potatoes, cucumbers, zucchini
- Deer tend to avoid garlic mustard and in so doing help it dominate garden & natural areas.
- Always check that the species you’re planting is not on the invasive species list. See [Terrestrial Invasive Plants](#) or [Credit Valley Conservation Priority Invasive Plant](#) list for more information. This list is reviewed from time to time and every attempt is made to remove invasive species of plants from our list.



Deer and Rabbit Resistant Plant List

<i>Botanical Name</i> <small>• *this genus contains native species</small>	Common Name	Resistant to deer or rabbit	General Information <small>• perennial, annual, shrub, vine, annual, native • **may contain species which are invasive</small>
<i>Achillea* sp.</i>	Yarrow	D, R	Perennial
<i>Acorus sp.</i>	Sweet Flag	D	Wetland perennial
<i>Aconitum sp.</i>	Monkshood	D, R	Perennial
<i>Agapanthus sp.</i>	Lily-of-the-Nile	D, R	Annual tropical
<i>Agastache* sp.</i>	Anise-Hyssop	D, R	Perennial
<i>Aquilegia sp.</i>	Columbine	D, R	Native perennial flower
<i>Alchemilla sp.</i>	Lady's Mantle	D, R	Perennial
<i>Allium sp.</i>	Flowering Onions	D	Perennial
<i>Anemone sp.</i>	Anemone	D, R	Perennial
<i>Artemisia sp.</i>	Artemisia, Wormwood	D, R	Perennial
<i>Antirrhinum sp.</i>	Snapdragon	R	Annual
<i>Aruncus sp.</i>	Goatsbeard	D	Perennial
<i>Astilbe sp.</i>	Astilbe	D, R	Perennial
<i>Baptisia sp.</i>	False Indigo	D, R	Native perennial flower
<i>Bergenia sp.</i>	Bergenia	D, R	Perennial
<i>Brunnera sp.</i>	Siberian Bugloss	D, R	Perennial
<i>Calendula sp.</i>	Marigold	R	Annual
<i>Campanula sp.</i>	Bellflower	D	Perennial**
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	Trumpet Vine	D, R	Native flowering vine(aggressive)
<i>Cimicifuga* sp.</i>	Bugbane	D, R	Perennial
<i>Chelone sp.</i>	Turtlehead	D, R	Native perennial flower
<i>Clematis sp.</i>	Clematis	D, R	Vine
<i>Coreopsis* sp.</i>	Tickseed	D, R	Perennial
<i>Corydalis* sp.</i>	Corydalis	R	Perennial
<i>Delphinium sp.</i>	Delphinium	D, R	Perennial
<i>Dicentra sp.</i>	Bleeding Heart	D, R	Perennial
<i>Digitalis sp.</i>	Foxglove	D, R	Perennial
<i>Echinacea sp.</i>	Coneflower	D	Native perennial flower
<i>Echinops sp.</i>	Globe Thistle	D	Perennial
<i>Epimedium sp.</i>	Barrenwort	D, R	Perennial groundcover
<i>Eupatorium sp.</i>	Joe-Pye Weed	D, R	Native perennial flower
<i>Euphorbia sp.</i>	Spurge	D, R	Perennial
Ferns			
• <i>Athyrium sp.</i>	• Painted	D, R	Perennial
• <i>Dryopteris sp.</i>	• Shield	D, R	Perennial
• <i>Matteuccia sp.</i>	• Ostrich	D, R	Perennial, native (aggressive)
<i>Gaillardia sp.</i>	Blanket Flower	D, R	Perennial



<i>Grasses</i>			
• <i>Calamagrostis sp.</i>	• Feather Reed	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
• <i>Cyperaceae sp.</i>	• Sedge	<i>D</i>	<i>Perennial**</i>
• <i>Festuca sp.</i>	• Fescue	<i>D</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
• <i>Molinia sp.</i>	• Moor Grass	<i>D</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
• <i>Panicum sp.</i>	• Switchgrass	<i>D</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
• <i>Pennisetum sp.</i>	• Fountain Grass	<i>D</i>	<i>Annual</i>
• <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	• Wood Oats	<i>D</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Helleborus sp.</i>	Hellebore	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Heuchera sp.</i>	Coral Bells	<i>D</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Hibiscus sp.</i>	Hibiscus	<i>D</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Ilex sp.</i>	Holly	<i>D</i>	<i>Shrub</i>
<i>Hypericum sp.</i>	St. John's Wort	<i>R</i>	<i>Shrub, native</i>
<i>Iris sp. (not Dutch iris)</i>	Iris	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Perennial**</i>
<i>Lavandula sp.</i>	Lavender	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Leucanthemum × superbum</i>	Shasta daisy	<i>D</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Native perennial flower</i>
<i>Lupinus* sp.</i>	Lupine	<i>R</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Monarda sp.</i>	Beebalm	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Native perennial flower</i>
<i>Narcissus sp.</i>	Daffodils		<i>Spring bulb</i>
<i>Nepeta sp.</i>	Catmint	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Oenothera sp.</i>	Evening Primrose	<i>D</i>	<i>Native perennial flower</i>
<i>Paeonia sp.</i>	Peony	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Papaver sp.</i>	Poppy	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Perennial Geranium sp.</i>	Cranesbill	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Native perennial flower</i>
<i>Perovskia sp.</i>	Russian Sage	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Garden Phlox	<i>D</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Picea sp.</i>	Spruce	<i>D</i>	<i>Evergreen tree</i>
<i>Pinus sp.</i>	Pine	<i>D</i>	<i>Evergreen tree</i>
<i>Platycodon grandiflorus</i>	Balloon flower	<i>D</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Physostegia sp.</i>	Obedient plant	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Native perennial flower</i>
<i>Polemonium* sp.</i>	Jacob's Ladder	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Native perennial flower</i>
<i>Polygonatum* sp.</i>	Solomon's Seal	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Native perennial flower</i>
<i>Pulmonaria sp.</i>	Lungwort	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Primula sp.</i>	Primrose	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Rudbeckia sp.</i>	Black-eyed Susan	<i>D</i>	<i>Native perennial flower</i>
<i>Salvia sp.</i>	Perennial Sage	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Sedum sp.</i>	Stonecrop	<i>R</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Sempervivum sp.</i>	Hen and Chicks	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Spiraea sp.</i>	Spirea	<i>D</i>	<i>Shrub</i>



<i>Stachys sp.</i>	Lamb's-ear	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Stokesia sp.</i>	Stokes' Aster	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Tiarella sp.</i>	Foamflower	<i>D</i>	<i>Native perennial flower</i>
<i>Trollius sp.</i>	Globeflower	<i>R</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Thalictrum sp.</i>	Meadow-rue	<i>D</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Verbascum sp.</i>	Mullein	<i>D</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Veronica sp.</i>	Speedwell	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Perennial</i>
<i>Yucca sp.</i>	Adam's Needle	<i>D, R</i>	<i>Perennial</i>

References:

- Sheridan Nurseries Catalog
- Heritage Perennials Flyer
- Canadian Gardening <http://www.canadiangardening.com/how-to/pests-and-diseases/deer-proof-your-garden/a/1574/2>
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/FW/2ColumnSubPage/290041.html>
- Ontario Invasive Plants Council <http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/>
- Credit Valley Conservation Priority Invasive Plants <https://cvc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/11-150-priorityinvasives-11-list-web.pdf>
- Ontario Wildflowers <http://www.ontariowildflowers.com/>

