



Austin Title

# Deer-Resistant Landscape Plants

Deer can be a major landscape menace, both rural and sometimes urban in the Hill Country and other areas that are overpopulated with deer. Deer-proof landscape plants are much in demand.

Few plants are fully deer-proof, but a number of species are unpalatable enough to be left alone as other food is available. Droughts and other situations that create a serious food shortage can cause deer to lose their inhibitions and eat otherwise unpalatable plants including most of those listed below. With this disclaimer in mind, the list that follows was prepared using advice from area nurserymen/landscapers and from other lists.

## SMALL TREES / LARGE SHRUBS

Texas Buckeye (*Acsculus arguta*) \*\* \*\*\*  
 Golden Ball Lead Tree (*Leucana retusa*) \*\*  
 Texas Persimmon (*Diospyros texana*) \*\*  
 Fig (*Ficus* spp.)  
 Flameleaf Sumac (*Rhus lanceolata*) \*\*  
 Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*) \*\*  
 Mountain Laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*) \*\*  
 Roughleaf Dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*) \*\* \*\*\*

## PERENNIAL SUCCULENTS AND LILIES

Cactus (*Opuntia* spp.) w/ stout spines \*\*  
 Hen & Chickens (*Sempervivum* spp.) (spiney)  
 Yucca (*Yucca* spp.) \*\*  
 Red Yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*) \*\*  
 Sotol (*Dasylyrion* spp.) \* \*\*  
 Sacahuista/Bear Grass/ (*Nolina* spp.) \*\*  
 Lily of the Nile (*Agapanthus* spp.)  
 Cast-Iron Plant (*Aspidistra elatior*) \*\*\*

## SHRUBS

Ceniza/Texas Sage (*Leucophyllum* spp.) \* \*\*  
 Oleander (*Nerium oleander*)  
 Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)  
 Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)  
 Mexican Buckeye (*Ungnadia speciosa*) \*\*  
 Mexican Oregano (*Poliomintha longifolia*)  
 Boxwood (*Buxus microphylla*)  
 Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster dammeri*) \*  
 Dwarf Yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*) \*\*  
 Fragrant Mimosa (*Mimosa borealis*) \*\*  
 Pyracantha (*Pyracantha coccinea*) \*  
 Goldcup (*Hypericum* spp.)  
 Autumn Sage (*Salvia greggii*) \*\* \*\*\*

Mexican silktassel (*Gaura lindheimeri*) \*\*  
 Juniper (*Juniperus* spp.) \* \*\*  
 Agarita (*Berberis trifloriolata*) \*\*  
 Blackberry (*Rubus* spp.) (thorny only) \* \*\*  
 Evergreen Sumac (*Rhus virens*) \*\*  
 Nandina (*Nandina* spp.) \* \*\*\*  
 Autumn Aster (*Aster oblingifolius*) \*  
 Turk's cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus*) \*\* \*\*\*  
 Elaeagnus (*Elaeagnus* spp.)  
 Dwarf Chinese Holly (*Ilex cornuta*)  
 Japanese Aralia (*Aralia sieboldii*)  
 Aucuba (*Aucuba japonica*) \*\*\*  
 Abelia (*Abelia* spp.)  
 Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) \* \*\*  
 Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia* spp.)  
 Lantana (*Lantana horrida*)  
 (natives resistant/hybrids not) \* \*\*

## FLOWERS, FERNS, HERBS

Mexican Mint Marigold (*Tagetes* spp.)  
 Bluebonnet (*Lupinus texensis*) \*\*  
 Cedar Sage (*Salvia roemeriana*) \*\* \*\*\*  
 Verbena (*Verbena* spp.) \*\*  
 Zexmenia (*Zexmenia hispida*) \*\*  
 Iris (*Iris* spp.) \*  
 Begonia (*Begonia* spp.) \*  
 Indigo Spires (*Salvia* spp.)  
 Mexican Bush Sage (*Salvia leucantha*) \*  
 Periwinkle (*Vinca rosea*)  
 Dusty Miller (*Senecio cineraria*)  
 Ageratum (*Ageratum* spp.)  
 Coreopsis (*Coreopsis* spp.) \*\*  
 Yarrow (*Achillea filipendulina*) \*\*  
 Cosmos (*Cosmos bipinnatus*)  
 Foxglove (*Digitalis* spp.) \*\*

Purple Cone Flower  
 (*Echinacea angustifolia*) \* \*\*  
 Flame Acanthus (*Anisacanthus wrightii*)  
 Zinnia (*Zinnia* spp.) \*  
 Blackfoot Daisy  
 (*Melampodium lecanthum*) \*\*  
 Chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum* spp.)  
 Wood Fern (*Dryopteris* spp.) \*\* \*\*\*  
 Sword Fern (*Nephrolepis* spp.) \*\*\*  
 Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) \*\*  
 Mealy Blue Sage (*Salvia farinacea*) \*\*  
 Jerusalem Cherry (*Solanum pseudocapsicum*)

## VINES

Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*)  
 Star Jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) \*

## GROUND COVERS

Asiatic Jasmine (*Trachelospermum asiaticum*) \*  
 Santolina (*Santolina* spp.) \*\*  
 Aarons Beard (*Hypericum calycinum*)  
 Spearmint (*Menta spicata*) \*\*\*  
 Myrtle (*Vinca major*) \*\*\*  
 Carpet Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*) \* \*\*\*  
 Monkey Grass (*Ophiopogon japonica*) \*

## LARGE TREES

None have been observed to be resistant enough to leave unprotected. Fortunately trees can be caged until they grow taller than the deer.

\* Observed heavily eaten under pressure

\*\* Texas Natives

\*\*\* Shade Tolerant