

This resource offers a general list of deer-resistant plants – from shrubs and ground covers to perennials, ornamental grasses and flowers – which are either odiferous or unappetizing to deer. The list is designed as a reference for homeowners and landscapers and includes plants identified as deer-resistant by Texas A&M University's Agriculture Program.

When selecting deer-resistant plants for your landscaping project, remember to look for the GO TEXAN logo – a glowing brand in the shape of Texas – a sure sign that you're getting the hardiest, greenest and healthiest plants grown in Texas. Distance does make a difference, and buying a plant grown locally means less travel time for your plants to ship directly to your local retailer. GO TEXAN is the Texas Department of Agriculture's unified marketing campaign to spotlight and identify Texas products. When you GO TEXAN and purchase Texas agricultural products, not only are you going home with some of the best homegrown products Texas has to offer; you're also doing your part to strengthen our state's economy by providing valuable financial support. The signature GO TEXAN logo points the way. Root for Texas by looking for the GO TEXAN logo.



Information Sources and Resources

Information for this reference was reprinted with permission from the Texas A&M University Horticulture Department's Web site at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/web.html>.

For additional information on deer-resistant plants:

<http://lonestar.texas.net/~jleblanc/deerplants.html>
This Web page contains an extensive list of deer-resistant plants

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/publications/repellents.html>
This Web page discusses other methods of repelling deer



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Protecting Your Landscape:

A Handy List of Deer-Resistant Plants



Texas Department of Agriculture



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The native Texas landscape offers a unique mix of geographic regions with a wide array of indigenous flora and fauna. Lush native grasses, colorful perennials and hardy trees are all part of the scene. Another feature is a diverse population of wildlife, including birds, rabbits, raccoons and deer. In fact, Texas is home to about 4 million white-tailed deer, more than any other state.

As deer adapt more to newly established urban surroundings, the incidence of deer grazing on gardens and landscaping projects is no longer a problem for rural areas only. Landscape protection options include fencing – or other physical barriers – or chemical repellents. However, deer-proof fencing can be expensive or unsightly and chemical repellents may be undesirable for some landscapers and homeowners. Deer-resistant plants may offer an ideal solution for Texans who live in areas with a large (and hungry) deer population.



Deer rely on their strong sense of smell to determine if a plant is safe and palatable. By creating a “scent barrier” using a mix of deer-resistant plants that emit a variety of strong odors, it is hoped that the scents may prove overwhelming and encourage deer to graze elsewhere. Other deer resistant plants are bitter tasting, or have hairy or prickly leaves that are coarse and tough, and may even have caustic and sticky sap. Deer typically find these plants extremely unappetizing, and will leave the area in search of something more savory.

This guide is designed to help identify plants that may make a difference in protecting your landscape from deer. Keep in mind, however, that few plants are fully deer-proof. Many plants that are unattractive to deer when food is plentiful will be readily devoured when food is in short supply. The combination of heat and summer droughts almost invariably make late summer and fall a particularly trying time for areas with a large native deer population. Preferences by individual deer and competition for available food sources make it impossible to compile a complete and 100 percent guaranteed fool-proof list of deer-resistant plants. When hungry enough, deer may eat even the most resistant plants.

DEER-RESISTANT PLANTS

Trees

According to observation, there are no trees that are deer-resistant enough to leave unprotected. The best approach is to construct a cage around each tree until the leaves and smaller branches grow beyond the deer's reach.

Shrubs

Agarita (*Berberis trifoliolata*)
 Boxleaf Euonymus (*Euonymus japonica* 'Microphylla')
 Bush Germander (*Teucrium fruticosans*)
 Ceniza/Texas Sage (*Leucophyllum* spp.)
 Elaeagnus or Silverberry (*Elaeagnus pungens*)
 Evergreen sumac (*Rhus virens*)
 Goldcup (*Hypericum* spp.)
 Gray Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster glaucophylla*)
 Japanese Boxwood (*Buxus microphylla japonica*)
 Japanese Yew (*Podocarpus macrophyllus*)
 Nandina (*Nandina domestica*)
 Oleander (*Nerium oleander*)
 Pineapple Guava (*Feijoa sellowiana*)
 Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*)
 Primrose Jasmine (*Jasminum mesnyi*)
 Reeve's Spirea (*Spirea reevesiana*)
 Soft Leaf Yucca (*Yucca recurvifolia*)
 Sotol (*Dasyliirion* spp.)
 Texas Mountain Laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*)
 Upright Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)
 Yaupon Holly (regular and dwarf) (*Ilex vomitoria*)
 Yucca (spp.) All yucca with a sharp, stiff point

Ground Covers

Prostrate Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis* Prostratus)
 Germander (*Teucrium chamaedrys*)
 Gray Santolina or Lavender Cotton (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*)
 Green Santolina (*Santolina virens*)
 Thyme (*Thymus* spp.)
 Wedelia (*Wedelia trilobata*)

Perennials

Ageratum (*Eupatorium coelestinum*)
 Amaryllis (*Hippeastrum x Johnsonii*)
 Angel Trumpet (*Datura* spp.)
 Bouncing Bet/Soapwort (*Saponaria officinalis*)
 Silver King Artemisia (*Artemisia ludoviciana*)
 Autumn Sage (*Salvia greggii*)
 Bearded Iris (*Iris* spp.)
 Blue Plumbago (*Plumbago auriculata*)
 Candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*)
 Copper Canyon Daisy (*Tagetes lemonii*)
 Dusty Miller (*Senecio cineraria*)
 Garlic Chives (*Allium tuberosum*)
 Goldmoss Sedum (*Sedum acre*)
 Gray Santolina or Lavender Cotton (*Santolina hamaecyparissus*)
 Green Santolina (*Santolina virens*)
 Hummingbird Bush (*Anisacanthus wrightii*)
 Indigo Spires Salvia (*Salvia* 'Indigo Spires')
 Jerusalem Sage (*Phlomis fruticosa*)
 Lantana (*Lantana* spp.)
 Mallow Hibiscus (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)

Marguerite (*Chrysanthemum frutescens*)
 Mealy Cup Sage (*Salvia farinacea*)
 Mexican Bush Sage (*Salvia leucantha*)
 Mexican Hat (*Ratibida columnaris*)
 Mexican Honeysuckle (*Justicia spicigera*)
 Mexican Mint Marigold (*Tagetes lucida*)
 Mexican Oregano (*Poliomintha longifolia*)
 Oxeye Daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*)
 Rock Rose (*Pavonia lasiopetala*)
 Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)
 Spined Prickly Pear Cactus (*Opuntia* spp.)
 Split Leaf Philodendron (*P. selloum*)
 Texas Betony (*Stachys coccinea*)
 Wedelia (*Wedelia trilobata*)
 Wormwood (*Artemisia absinthum*)
 Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Ornamental Grasses

Inland Sea Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*)
 Maiden Grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*)
 Gulf Muhley (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)
 Lindheimer's Muhley (*Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*)
 Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana*)
 Purple Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*)

Flowers

Indigo Spires (*Salvia* spp.)
 Larkspurs (*Delphinium consolida*)
 Marigolds (*Tagetes* spp.)
 Mealy Cup Sage (*Salvia farinacea*)
 Periwinkles (*Catharanthus roseus*)
 Zinnias (*Zinnia* spp.)

