

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

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Here's a list of the major plants eaten. If you have a population of deer on your property, don't plant these or plan on putting chicken wire or netting around them.

- Gladioli
- Agapanthus
- Asiatic Lilies
- Roses
- Hydrangeas
- Firecracker Lily
- Blueberries
- Cherry tree leaves
- Dahlias
- Grapes
- Mock orange
- Fuchsia
- Camellias
- Johnson Blue Geraniums
- Jacobina
- Bergenia
- Purple Loosestrife



*Cynthia's rose bush before the buck jumped the fence.
Photos Cynthia Brian*

- Wisteria
- Sweet Potato
- Hollyhocks
- Mexican Primrose

These are the plants touted as extremely deer resistant, but my antlered visitor ate them, to my surprise.

- Osteospermum
- Marigolds
- Gaura
- Snapdragons
- Lamium
- Purple Loosestrife
- Wisteria
- Sweet Potato
- Dianthus
- Sunflowers
- Fennel

I noticed that deer on my land avoid grey leaved plant varieties. These are plants my guy didn't eat and are probably safe to plant in your garden.

- Foxglove
- Lavender
- Peony
- Sage
- Society Garlic
- Artemis
- New Zealand Flax
- Portulaca
- Boxwood
- Pink Bower Vine
- Begonia
- Calla Lily
- Four O'Clocks
- Yarrow
- Star Jasmine
- Muscari
- Ferns
- Naked Ladies
- Bearded Iris
- Birds of Paradise
- Ornamental grasses
- Hellebore
- Columbine



*The same rose bush after the deer's munching spree.
Notice the dryer sheet of Bounce stuck to the stem.*

- Gazania
- Primrose
- Daffodil

Keep in mind there are no deer proof plants. As graceful and beautiful as deer are, they are extremely destructive. I was totally astonished by many of the flowers consumed, especially since my plants are surrounded with specimens like spearmint, scented geranium, and lamb's ear that deer normally avoid. Vegetation they don't eat in my neighbor's yards, they are devouring in my garden. With no prescription for success, one size does not fit all when it comes to deterring deer. You will need to be diligent, watchful, and experiment with all the suggestions, then hope to buck the system of deer raiders.

If only we could run like deer, jump like deer, and think like deer, we could solve the grazing dilemma. As humans, we don't want a buck buddy in our fenced backyards. Although I wish he would move on to greener pastures, for now, the buck stops here.