



**Muskoka
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TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Deer-resistant gardening tips

Deer are attractive creatures, but most gardeners would appreciate them more if they weren't so keen to devour favorite perennials and shrubs.

Deer are most active just after dark and before dawn, when you're not going to be around to scare them off.

However, there are a number of methods you can try to keep deer out of your yard:

- **Deer fencing:** This is the most effective, but also the most expensive or work-intensive option. Deer fences should be at least six to eight feet high. Sloping your fence at an angle, near the top, so the top of the fence points away from your garden increases its effectiveness.
- **Netting:** If you have just a few plants to protect, you can wrap plastic netting around them or put it on the ground around the plant — deer hate stepping on netting.
- **Deer repellents:** Garden suppliers and home centers carry a number of products that you can spray on plants to make them taste or smell bad.
- **Human or dog hair:** Some folks swear by putting human hair from salons around the garden so deer can readily catch the scent. Dog hair from a dog-grooming establishment can also do the trick.
- **Predator urine:** This stuff, courtesy of wolves and coyotes, can make deer nervous enough to steer clear of your place. Available from garden suppliers and online.
- **Ultrasonic devices:** These repellent devices are expensive, and deer can become accustomed to familiar sounds and objects, which means that this is most successful if you move the ultrasonic transmitter frequently.
- **Radio:** If you use a radio, it doesn't have to be very loud. Your best bet is to tune to an all-night talk station, as human voices are scarier for deer than music. Obviously, this is not an option if it's loud enough to disturb your neighbors' sleep, not to mention your own.

Deer Deterrent

2 eggs raw
1 cup water

Put in blender and mix at high speed. Mix with up to 2 liters of water in a spray bottle. Spray on plants and reapply following a rainfall. You may also add to the mixture:

Diluted cayenne pepper or ginger
Water with milk

Deer-resistant plants

Deer will eat almost anything if they're ravenous enough, but they usually leave the plants listed here alone. Normally, they tend to avoid plants with a strong taste or smell, and they don't relish hairy leaves.

Here's a sampler of deer-resistant plants:

Annuals, Perennials, Ferns

Ageratum
Brown-eyed Susan
Coral bells
Coreopsis
Cosmos
Cornflower
Dusty miller
Evening primrose
Lavender
Lenten rose
Ornamental grasses
Ornamental onions (*Allium* species)
Perennial sage
Purple coneflower
Russian sage
Salvia (annual and perennial)
Shasta daisy
Speedwell
Verbena
Wood fern
Yarrow

Groundcovers

Carpet Bugle (*Ajuga*)
Periwinkle
Santolina
Thyme

Shrubs

Alder
American holly
Cinquefoil
Cotoneaster
Dogwood
Hawthorn
Honeysuckle
Juniper
Lilac
Nannyberry
Potentilla *gracilis*
Roses
Serviceberry
Snowberry
Spirea

Trees

Ash
Birch
Hazel
Hemlock
Oak
Red maple
Spruce
Tamarack

Adapted from Flower Gardening Made Easy