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How to Keep Deer and Rabbits Out of Your Garden

Rabbits

Rabbits are a year-round landscaping nightmare! You should protect your trees, shrubs and small plants by encasing the trunks with small mesh chicken wire - or else hungry rabbits will nibble on them. Keep in mind that some plants are "natural pest repellents." Many plants that are "rabbit resistant" are also avoided by deer, often because they are poisonous - to humans as well! Therefore, rabbits normally will leave Digitalis (Foxglove) and Aconitum (Monkshood) alone. The other reason rabbits will leave plants alone is because they don't smell good - at least to the rabbit!

Aromatic herbs such as lavender, sage, and oregano excite humans but send rabbits hopping in the opposite direction. Rabbits dislike the smell of catnip and are not likely to frequent a

Achillea - Yarrow
Aconitum - Monkshood
Agastache - Anise Hyssop
Alchemillia - Lady's Mantle
Allum - Ornamental Chives
Amsonia - Blue Star
Aquilegia - Columbine
Artemesia - Wormwood / Sagebrush
Asclepias - Butterfly Weed
Berberis thunbergii - Barberry
Buddleia davidii - Butterfly Bush
Buxus - Boxwood
Caryopteris - Bluebeard
Cinquefoil - Potentilla
Crocoshmia
Daphne
Delphinium

Dicentra - Bleeding Heart
Digitalis - Foxglove
Echinops - Globe Thistle
Euphorbia - Spurge
Ferns
Galium - Sweet Woodruff
Genista - Broom
Geranium - Cranesbill
Grasses - Ornamental and Carex -
Sedge
Helleborus - Hellebore
Hypericum - St. John's Wort
Hyssopus - Hyssop
Iris siberica - Siberian Iris
Kolkwitzia - Beauty Bush
Lamium - Dead Nettle
Lavandula - Lavender

Mentha - Mint
Monarda - Bee Balm
Nepeta - Catmint
Origanum - Oregano
Papaver orientale - Poppy
Perovskia - Russian Sage
Phlox subulata - Creeping Phlox
Picea - Spruce
Rhuem - Rhubarb
Rhus - Sumac
Salvia officinalis - Garden Sage
Saponaria - Soapwort
Stachys - Lamb's Ear
Tanacetum - Tansy
Teucrium - Germander
Thymus - Thyme
Yucca

garden with a catnip-loving cat around. Keep in mind, this list is by no means complete or foolproof! A hungry animal will forage for anything. But this list is a good start! Keep a list of what works and doesn't work for you - it's helpful for new neighbors and if you happen to forget what you planted a few years ago.

Deer

Deer present one of the largest pest problems for those with landscaping! Deer can create a large amount of damage in a short amount of time. Placing a fence around your yard is the first line of defense. The use of organic repellents also can be a good deterrent; however, the simplest and sensible thing to do is plant what deer are least likely to eat! These plants are called "deer resistant".