



University of California Cooperative Extension
Sonoma County

Plants Usually Avoided by Deer

When using this list, keep in mind that the appetite of deer for a particular plant is affected by the availability of other plants. If food is scarce, deer will eat plants that are otherwise deer-proof. Plants are listed by type: trees, shrubs, ground covers, vines, perennials, annuals, grasses, fams.

Trees

Abies (Firs)
Acacia (Acacia)
Acer circinatum (Vine maple)
Acer macrophyllum (Big leaf maple)
Acer negundo (Box elder)
Agonis flexuosa (Peppermint tree)
Albizia (Silk tree or plume acacia)
Angophora castata or lanceolata
Araucaria
Arbutus mensieg (Madrone)
Beaucarnea recurvata (Bottle Palm)
Brachychiton populneus (Bottle tree)
Callistemon (Bottle brush)
Calocedrus decurrens (incense cedar)
Casuarina stricta (She oak)
Catalpa bignonioides
Cedrus (Cedars)
Celts australis (European hackberry)
Ceratonia siliqia (Carob)
Cercis occidentalis (Western redbud)
Chamaecyparis (False cypress)
Citrus
Cordyline australis
Cornus capitata (Himalayan dogwood)
Crataegus (Hawthorns)
Cupressus (Cypress)
Diospyros virginiana (Persimmon)
Erythea armata (Mexican blue palm)
Erythea edulis (Guadalupe palm)
Eucalyptus
Ficus (Figs)
Fraxinus (Ash)
Fraxinus velutina (Arizona ash)
Ginkgo biloba (Maidenhair tree)
Gymnocladus dioica (Kentucky Coffee)
Jubaea chilensis (Syrup palm)
Lagerstoemia indica (Crepe myrtle)
Larix decidua (European larch)

Liquidamber styraciflua
Lithocarpus densiflorus (Tanbark oak)
Lyonothamnus floribundus (Catalina ironwood)
Maclura poinifera (Osage orange)
Magnolia
Maytenus boaria (Mayten tree)
Melaleuca leucadendra (Cajeput tree)
Melaleuca nesophila
Melia azedarach (China-berry tree)
Metrosideros excelsa (New Zealand Christmas tree)
Myoporum laetum
Olea europaea (Olive)
Paimae (Palms)
Parkinsonia aculeata (Jerusalem thorn)
Paulownia tomentosa (Empress tree)
Phoenix (Date palm)
Picea (Spruces)
Pinus (Pines)
Platanus racemosa (Western sycamore)
Podocarpus (Yew pine)
Quillaja saponaria (Soapbark tree)
Robinia pseudoacacia (Black locust)
Sabal blackburniana (Hispaniolan palmetto)
Sambucus caerulea (Blue elderberry)
Schinus molle (California pepper tree)
Sequoia sempervirens (Coast redwood)
Sequoiadendron gigantea (Giant redwood)
Sisygium paniculatum (Australian bush cherry)
Tachelospermum jasminoides (Brush cherry)
Taxus (Yew)
Thuja (Arborvitae)
Trachycarpus fortunei (Windmill palm)
Washingtonia (Washington palm)

Shrubs

Abutilon (Flowering maple)
Actea arguta (Banoberry)
Atyogyne huegelii (Blue hibiscus)
Andromeda polifolia (Bog rosemary)
Aralia spinosa (Hercules club)
Arbutus unedo (Strawberry tree)
Baccharis
Bacchads pilularis (Coyote bush)
Berberis (Barberry)
Brugmansia
Buddleia (Buffery bush)
Buxus (BOX)
Cactaceae (Cactus)
Calliandra tweedyi (Trinidad flame bush)
Calluna vulgaris (Scotch heather)
Calycanthus occidentalis (Spice bush)
Caragana
Carpenteria californica (Bush anemone)
Cassia (Senna)
Ceanothus' Blue Jean'
Ceanothus' Concha'
Ceanothus' Dark Star
Ceanothus' Julia Philips'
Ceanothus' Ray Hartman'
Ceanothus gloriosus (Pt. Reyes ceanothus)
Ceanothus griseus horizontalis (Carmel creeper)
Chaenomeles japonica (Flowering quince)
Chamaerops humilis (Mediterranean fan palm)
Choisya ternata (Mexican orange)
Cistus (Rockrose)
Cistus ladanifer (Crimson-spot rockrose)
Cistus purpureus (Orchid rockrose)
Cistus salivitolius (Sageleaf rockrose)

Cistus scanbergii (Rockrose)
Coleonema album (White breath of heaven)
Coleonema pulchrum (Pink breath of heaven)
Convolvulus cneorum (Bush morning glory)
Coprosma kirkii
Coprosma repens (Mirror plant)
Corakia cotoneaster
Correa (Australian fuchsia)
Cortaderia
Corylus cornuta californica (Western hazelnut)
Cortinus coggygria (Smoke tree)
Cotoneaster
Cotoneaster buxifolius
Cycas
Cycas revoluta (Sago palm)
cytiscus (Broom)
Cytiscus scoparius (Scotch broom)
Daphne
Datura
Dendromecon (Bush poppy)
Diosma ericoides (Breath of heaven)
Diosma pulchrum (Pink breath of heaven)
Dodonaea viscosa (Hop bush)
Elaeagnus (Russian olive)
Elaeagnus pungens (Silverberry)
Erica (Heath)
Eriocephalus africanus (African rosemary)
Escallonia
Euonymus japonica (Evergreen euonymus)
Euroyops pectinatus
Fabiana imbricata (Chile heath)
Forsythia ovata (Golden bells)
Gaultheria shallon (Salal)
Genista monosperma (Bridal veil broom)
Grevillea
Griselinia lucida
Hakea suaveolens (Sweet hakia)
Halimium atriplicifolium
Hebe pinguifolia 'Pagei'
Helianthemum nummularium (Sunrose)
Heteromeles arbutifolia (Toyon)
Hypericum
Ilex (except thornless) (Holly)
Iochroma cyaneum
Jasminum
Juniperus (Junipers)

Kerria japonica (Japanese rose)
Lantana montevidensis (Trailing lantana)
Leptospermum (Tea tree)
Ligustrum japonicum (Japanese privet)
Lupinus (Lupine)
Lupinus albifrons (Silver bush lupine)
Mahonia aquifolium (Oregon grape)
Mahonia nevinii (Nevin's barberry)
Mahonia pinnata (California berberis)
Melianthus major (Honey bush)
Michelia figo (Banana shrub)
Morrea iridoides
Myrica
Myrica californica (Pacific wax myrtle)
Myrtus communis (True myrtle)
Nandina domestica (Heavenly bamboo)
Nerium oleander (Oleander)
Nolina parryi
osmanthus
Paeonia (tree peonies)
Paeonia suffruticosa (Tree peonies)
Physocarpus capitatus (Pacific ninebark)
Pittosporum
Plumbago auriculata
Potentilla fruticosa (Shrubby cinquefoil)
Prunus caroliniana (Carolina cherry laurel)
Punica granatum
Rhododendron (except azalea)
Rhus ovata (Sugar bush)
Ribes (Currants and Gooseberries)
Ribes californica (California gooseberry)
Ribes speciosum (Fuchsia-flowered gooseberry)
Ribes viburnifolium (Evergreen currant)
Rosemarinus officinalis (Rosemary)
Rubus calycinoides (Bramble)
Ruscus aculiatu
Salvia (most varieties) (Sages)
Salvia clevelandii (Cleveland sage)
Saivia leucophyllia (White sage)
Saivia mellifera (Black sage)
Salvia sonomensis (Creeping sage)
Sambucus racemosa (Red elderberry)
Sanicula crassicaulis (Pacific snakeroot)
Sarcococca (Sweet box)

Solanum (Nightshade)
Spartum junceum (Spanish broom)
Symphoricarpos albus (Common snowberry)
Syringa vulgaris (Lilac)
Taxus (Yew)
Teucrium fruticans (Bush germander)
Thuja (Arborvitae)
Tibouchina urvilleana (Princess flower)
Viburnum burkwoodii
Viburnum davidii
Viburnum tinus (Laurustinus)
Westringia rosmariniformis
Yucca
Yucca whipplei (Our Lord's candle)

Vines

Asparagus falcatus (Sickle-thorn asparagus)
Bougainvillea
Cissus rhombifolia (Grape ivy) Clematis
Clianthus puniceus (Red parrot beak)
Echinocysts lobata (Wild cucumber)
Fatshedera lizei
Gelsemium sempervirens (Carolina jessamine)
Hedera helix (English ivy)
Hibbertia scandens (Guinea gold vine)
Muehlenbeckia complexia (Maidenhair vine)
Pandorea pendorana (Wonga wonga vine)
Phaedranthus buccinatosus (Bloodred trumpet vine) -
Pueraria thunbergiana (Kudzu vine)
Solanum (Nightshade)
Solanum jasminoides (Potato vine)
Solanum wendiandii (Costa Rican nightshade)
Sollya heterophylla (Australian bluebell creeper)
Tecomaria capensis (Cape honeysuckle)
Trachelospermum jasminoides (Star jasmine)
Wisteria

Ground Covers

(Mowed grass lawn)
Arctostaphyllum uva-ursi (Bear berry)
Festuca ovina glauca (Blue fescue)
Fragaria chiloensis (Wild strawberry)
Galium odoratum (Sweet woodruff)

Gazania
Hypericum calycinum (St. John's wort)
Isotoma fluviatilis (Blue star creeper)
Laurentia fluviatilis (Blue star creeper)
Mesembryanthemum crystallinum (ice plant)
Myoporum parvifolium (Prostrate Myoporum)
Osteospermum fruticosum (Freeway daisy)
Pachysandra terminalis (Japanese spurge)
Potentilla verna (Cinquefoil)
Raouilia australis
Soleirolia soleirolii (Baby Tears)
Vinca major
Vinca minor (Periwinkle)

Bulbs

Allium (some)
Amaryllis belladonna (Naked lady)
Brodiaea
Crinum
Crocosmia
Freesia
Leucojum (Snowflake)
Narcissus (Daffodil)
Scilla peruviana (Peruvian scilla)
Tulipa (Tulip)
Vallota speciosa (Scarborough lily)
Zygadenus fremonti (Fremonts star lily)

Perennials

(Rhubarb)
(Succulents)
(Bamboos)
(Herbs)
Acanthus mollis (Bears breech)
Achillea (Yarrow)
Aconitum (Monkshood)
Agapanthus africanus (Li@y of the Nile)
Agave (Century plant)
Alcea rosea (Hollyhock)
Aloe
Anemone hybrida (Japanese anemone)
Aquilegia (Columbine)
Arabis (Rock cress)
Armeria maritima (Thrift)
Artemisia
Arum
Arundo donax (Giant reed)
Asarum caudatum (Wild ginger)

Astilbe (Meadow sweet)
Aubrieta deltoides (Common aubrieta)
Begonia tuberhybrida (Tuberous begonia)
Campanula isophylla (Star of Bethlehem)
Carex (Sedge)
Catharanthus roseus (Madagascar perwinkle)
Centuarea
Cerastium tomentosum (Snow-in-summer)
Ceratostigma plumbaginoides (Dwarf plumbago)
Chamaemelum nobile (Chamomile)
Cheiranthus cheiri (Wallflower)
Chrysanthemum frutescens (Marguerite)
Chrysanthemum maximum (Shasta daisy)
Chrysanthemum paludosum
Clivia miniata (Kaffir lily)
Convallaria (Lily-of-the-valley)
Coreopsis
Coreopsis gigantea (Tree coreopsis)
Coronilla glauca
Cortaderia selloana (Flampas grass)
Cyclamen
Cynara scolymus (Atchoke)
Cyperus
Delphinium (Larkspur)
Dicentra formosa (Western bleeding heart)
Dicentra spectabilis (Common bleeding heart)
Diets vegeta (Fortnight lily)
Digitalis (Foxglove)
Diplacus aurantiacus (Sticky monkeyflower)
Duchesnea indica (Indian mock strawberry)
Echium fastuosum (Pride of Madeira)
Epimedium
Equisetum (Horsetail)
Erigeron glaucus (Beach aster)
Erigeron karvinskianus (Santa Barbara daisy)
Eriogonum (Wild buckwheat)
Eriogonum latifolium (Coast eriogonum)
Eriogonum parvifolium (Seacliff buckwheat)
Erysium 'Bowles Mauve' (Wallflower)
Eschsholzia californica (California poppy)

Euryops pectinatus
Fagaria chiloensis (Beach strawberry)
Felicia (Blue Marguerite)
Filipendula
Gaillardia (Blanket flower)
Geranium (Cranesbill)
Gerbera (African daisy)
Gunnera tinctoria
Helianthus (Sunflower)
Helleborus (Christmas rose)
Hosta (Plaintan lily)
Incarvillea (Gloxinia)
Iris
Iris douglasiana (Douglas iris)
Kniphofia uvaria (Red-hot poker)
Lamium maculatum (Dead nettle)
Lantana sellowiana (Lantana)
Lavandula (all varieties) (Lavender)
Leonotis leonurus (Lion's tail)
Ligularia tussilaginea
Linum (Flax)
Lirope (Lily turf)
Lithodora diffusa
Lobelia laxiflora (Lobelia)
Lotus scoparius (Deer weed)
Lupinus (Lupine)
Lychnis coronaria (Crown pink or Dusty miller)
Lysimachia nummularia (Creeping jenny)
Mentha (Mint)
Mimulus (Monkey flower)
Mirabilis jalapa (Four o'clock)
Monarda (Bee balm)
Myosotis (Forget-me-not)
Nepeta (Catmint or catnip)
Nierembergia (Cup flower)
Nierembergia hippomanica (Dwarf cup flower)
Ophiopogon japonicus (Lily turf)
Osteospermum (African daisy)
Oxalis
Oxalis oregana (Redwood sorrel)
Papavar orientale (Oriental poppy)
Penstemon
Penstemon species, native
Phlomis fruticosa (Jerusalum sage)
Phlox subulata (Moss pink)
Phormium tenax (New Zealand flax)
Plantago erecta (California plantain)
Polygonatum (Solomon's seal)
Pulmonaria Lungwort
Raoulia australis
Rheum rhaponticum (Artichoke)

Romneya coulteri (Matilija poppy)
Rudbeckia'Goldsturm'
Rudbeckia hirta (Black-eyed Susan)
salvia (most varieties) (Sages)
Santolina
Saxifraga (Saxifrage)
Scabiosa (Pincushion flower)
Senecio cineraria (Dusty miller)
Silene acaulis (Cushion pink)
Sisyrinchium
Soleirolia soleirolii (Baby's tears)
Stachys byzantina (Lamb's ears)
Stokesia laevis (Stoke's aster)
strelitzia reginae (Bird of paradise)
Tagetes (Perennial marigold) -
Tellima grandiflora (Fringe cups),
Tolmiea menziesii (Piggyback plant)
Tradescantia (Wandering Jew)
Trillium
Valeriana officinalis (Heliotrope),
Vancouveria hexandra
Vancouveria planipetala
Verbena tenuisecta
Viola odorata (Sweet violet)
Zantedeschia (Calla lily)
Zauschneda (California fuchsia)

zinnia

Ferns

Pellaea andromedaefolia (Coffee fern)
Pityrogramma triangularis (Goldenback fern)

Annuals

Ageratum howstonianum (Floss flower)
Alyssum
Aretotis stoechadifolia (African daisy)
Calendula officinalis (Pot marigold)
Celosia (Cockscomb)
Centuarea
Clarkia
Cymbalaria muralis (Keniworth ivy)
Diascia (Twinspur)
Eryimum kotchyanum (Blister cress)
Helianthus (Sunflower)
Helichrysum (Strawflowers)
impatens walleriana
Linaria (Toadflax)
Linum (Flax)
Lobelia erinus
Lupinus (Lupine)
Mimulus (Monkey flower)
Myosotis (Forget-me-not)
Nicotana (Flowering tobacco)
Ricinus communis (Castor bean)
Salvia (most varieties) (Sages)
Scabiosa (Pincushion flower)
Tropaeolum (Nasturtium)
Vinca rosea