



In the blink of an eye deer can cause extensive damage to new and sometimes mature plants in your landscape. Many neighborhoods in the Louisville area are at risk for deer damage, including right here in the St. Matthews area. We want to help you prevent this damage with a few strategies on making your garden a little less attractive to deer, including deer resistant plants, barriers, and repellents.

**What damage can they cause?** It is important to note that deer can cause two different types of damage, browsing and rubbing. Browsing means the deer are enjoying your plants as a delicious snack as they make their way through your yard. This can occur during any season. Rubbing typically occurs in the fall as bucks will begin to mark their territory by rubbing against young trees. This rubbing can cause severe damage and sometimes total loss to these trees. Strategies to prevent damage are dependent on the type of damage you are looking to prevent.

## DEER RESISTANT PLANTS

If you have deer browsing problems in your yard the easiest solution is to steer clear of plants they are known to love, including daylilies, hardy hibiscus, hostas, hydrangeas, lilies, roses, sedums, and taxus just to name a few. The following is a list of plants that have shown to be resistant to deer browsing. This does not mean that damage will not occur; rather, they are least preferred as a source of food. When preferred food sources are scarce or not available almost any plant can be damaged.

### Perennials/Hardy Bulbs

Allium	Iris
Amsonia	Lamb's Ear
Asclepias	Lamium
Aster	Lavender
Astilbe	Liatris
Baptisia	Lobelia
Boltonia	Monarda
Brunnera	Daffodill
Catmint	Peony
Columbine	Plumbago
Coneflower	Pulmonaria
Coreopsis	Rudbeckia
Epimedium	Russian Sage
Eupatorium	Salvia
Euphorbia	Sneezeweed
Ferns (most)	Tiarella
Gaura	Turtlehead
Geranium	Veronica
Goldenrod	Yarrow
Hellebore	Yucca
Heuchera	

### Trees and Shrubs

Abelia	Katsura
Beautyberry	Magnolia
Boxwood	Mahonia
Buckeye	Nandina
Butterfly Bush	River Birch
Caryopteris	Sassafras
Cephalotaxus	Serviceberry
Clethra	Smoketree
Crapemyrtle	Spiraea
Dogwoods	Spruce
Forsythia	Sumac
Holly	Sweetshrub
Hypericum	Viburnum
Itea	Vitex
Juniper	

### Ornamental Grasses

Acorus
Carex
Feather Reed Grass
Miscanthus
Pennisetum
Switchgrass

### Annuals

Celosia
Cleome
Lantana
Lobularia
Penta
Salvia
Snapdragons
Vinca

Note: Deer resistant plants are only resistant to deer browsing, not rubbing.

### **PHYSICAL BARRIERS**

One might think any fence would prevent deer from entering your yard, but unless you have a solid fence that is six feet or taller you are at risk. Deer can easily jump a six-foot fence, but are less likely to do so if they can't see what's on the other side.

Creating a physical barrier is really best to prevent rubbing damage, rather than browsing. Having this barrier in place prior to the active rubbing season in fall will go a long way to protect your young trees. You can create this barrier by using a mesh tree guard or bamboo poles. This set-up helps deter the deer by providing a physical and visual barrier to the trunk causing them to take pause and re-think sticking their antlers in there.

### **REPELLENTS**

Liquid and granular organic based repellents are very effective against browsing (eating) deer when applied regularly, but unfortunately these repellents do not help against rubbing bucks.

If you have deer browsing problems in your yard steer clear of non-deer resistant bulbs and plants, unless you can consistently use repellents. Rotating different active ingredients and brands of repellent will help you be most effective in protecting your plants.

