

AI Overview February 2026 – Query: What Plants are Deer-Resistant?

Deer-resistant plants, such as **lavender, boxwood, daffodils, and catmint**, often feature strong scents, fuzzy textures, or toxic properties that deter foraging. Effective choices for a landscape include sturdy perennials like coneflowers, ornamental grasses, and bleeding hearts, as well as shrubs like Japanese barberry and juniper. No plant is 100% deer-proof, especially under high food pressure. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)]

Top Deer-Resistant Plants

- **Perennials:** Catmint (*Nepeta*), Lavender, Russian Sage, Hellebores (Lenten Rose), Peonies, Daffodils, Iris, Yarrow, Salvia, Ferns, Coneflowers (Echinacea), Bleeding Heart, Lungwort, Ornamental Onion (*Allium*), and Goatsbeard.
- **Shrubs:** Boxwood, Juniper, Japanese Barberry, Lilac, Potentilla, Andromeda (*Pieris japonica*), and Mugo Pine.
- **Herbs & Annuals:** Rosemary, Thyme, Mint, Sage, Oregano, Marigolds, Zinnias, and Dusty Miller. [[4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), [9](#), [10](#)]

Key Characteristics of Deer-Resistant Plants

- **Strong Scents:** Deer dislike aromatic plants like lavender, salvia, mint, and Russian sage.
- **Texture:** Prickly, thorny, or fuzzy plants, such as barberry, lamb's ear, and hellebores, are usually avoided.
- **Toxicity:** Deer tend to avoid poisonous plants, including daffodils, foxglove, and poppy.
- **Foliage Texture:** Ornamental grasses and plants with tough foliage are often ignored. [[1](#), [2](#), [4](#)]

Tips for Protection

- **Layering:** Surround susceptible plants with strong-smelling herbs.
- **Variability:** Deer preferences can change based on location and food availability, so planting a diverse mix is best.
- **Young Plants:** Protect new, tender plants, as deer are more likely to eat them before they establish. [[2](#), [4](#), [6](#), [11](#), [12](#)]

AI responses may include mistakes.

[1] <https://ucanr.edu/site/uc-marin-master-gardeners/deer-resistant-plants>

[2] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njH19fc13Xg>

- [3] https://www.youtube.com/shorts/2M_1Dm8s7i8
- [4] <https://www.almanac.com/deer-resistant-plants>
- [5] <https://www.gurneys.com/collections/deer-resistant>
- [6] <https://www.lowes.com/n/how-to/dealing-deer-in-landscape>
- [7] https://www.brecks.com/collections/deer_resistant_perennials
- [8] <https://www.provenwinners.com/learn/top-ten-lists/hardy-deer-resistant-proven-winners-perennials>
- [9] <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DNah9VYR6IB/>
- [10] https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/pages/hunt_trap/ddmtplants.aspx
- [11] <https://www.americanmeadows.com/blogs/meadowscaping/how-to-choose-deer-resistant-plants>
- [12] <https://www.learningwithexperts.com/blogs/articles/10-deer-resistant-shrubs>