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## GARDENING AROUND DEER



**The following is a guideline for planning and designing your landscape to deter deer, elk, and moose from treating your property as a free, 24-hour access, all-you-can-eat buffet.**

Wildlife is an exciting part of our big mountain backyard. Implementing strategies that deter these neighbors can help keep them from damaging our maintained spaces.

Keep in mind, they were here first. These wild animals will eat ***whatever they choose*** if they're hungry enough. Using a combination of these tips will provide the best defense protecting your space.

### Tips for Planning Your Garden Space

- **Plant** trees, shrubs, and perennials in your landscape that deer generally dislike.
- **Create** a physical barrier. Deer and elk can jump very high, but a fence that is at least 8 feet tall and secure is one of the most effective strategies to keep deer away. Make sure the fence is permitted in your locale before constructing it.
- **Rotate** different deer repellent products throughout the growing season such as Plantskydd, Repellex, Milorganite (lawn fertilizer), and other smelly homespun deterrents like garlic, blood meal, hot pepper spray, predator urine, and rotten egg mixtures. Deer acclimate, so rotation of product and placement keep them guessing.
- **Deer** are constantly on alert for predators (coyote, wolves, dogs, humans). Noises, movement, and lights that catch their attention will send them running. Wind chimes, a barking dog, the occasional firecracker, radio static, a motion-sensor sprinkler system and motion-sensor lights can all be considered when trying to frighten deer away.

***There are few plants that can be considered truly deer proof.***

*Just like people, deer's preferred foods differ from individual to individual and even season to season based on the severity of winter, plant availability, and access.*

*This list is inclusive of plants deer generally prefer and generally dislike.*

**Deer prefer plants** with lush foliage and high water content. Plants that are heavily watered and fertilized are more likely to be tasty. When spring arrives, hungry deer are looking for moisture and protein-rich new growth with tender shoots. Plants that fruit, such as fruit trees, berry bushes, and vegetable gardens are all highly attractive.

**Deer dislike** foliage that is heavily scented or strong flavored. Plants that have fuzzy or leathery leaves or have a milky sap are unattractive. And most plants that have thorns or spikes are not appealing. Water-wise or xeric plants that are drought tolerant are types of plants that deer aren't quick to eat. Because most native plants to this region are drought tolerant, deer do not typically prefer native plants.

**PLANTS DEER PREFER**

**PLANTS DEER DISLIKE**

<b>Trees and Shrubs:</b>  Apple Crabapple Cherry Plum Pear Birch Mountain Ash Sandcherry Willow Native Roses Burning Bush Hawthorn	<b>Perennials:</b>  Daylily Hosta Phlox Penstemon Strawberry Tulip Virginia Creeper
	<b>Annuals/ Biennials:</b>  Cosmos Impatiens Sunflowers Violets

<b>Trees and Shrubs:</b>  Barberry Blue Spruce Buffaloberry Cotoneaster Currant Gooseberry Fir Hawthorn Honeysuckle Juniper Lilac Lodgepole Pine Nanking Cherry Nannyberry Potentilla Rabbitbrush Rocky Mtn Maple Raspberry Sage Serviceberry Siberian Peashrub Snowberry Spirea Viburnum	<b>Perennials:</b>  Chives Mint Lavender Oregano Ajuga Artemesia Astilbe Beebalm Bleeding Heart Brunnera Catmint Clematis Columbine Coreopsis Daffodil Fern Forget-Me-Not Gayfeather Geranium Goldenrod Grass Helenium Honeysuckle Lady's Mantle Lamb's Ear Lamium Ligularia Poppy Peony Russian Sage Rhubarb Yarrow
	<b>Annuals/Biennials:</b>  Alyssum Begonia Dill Foxglove Marigold Parsley Primula Salvia Snapdragon Rosemary Thyme