

## Deer “Resistant” Plant List State Arboretum of Virginia Carrie Ensogna 8/13/08

White-tailed deer are responsible for a great deal of landscape destruction. Using landscape plants NOT preferred by deer is one way to prevent or at least lessen damage. The plants deer prefer to eat vary from region to region and change seasonally. No plant is completely deer proof. During the spring, times of drought, and hunger deer will eat anything to survive. They tend to prefer soft vegetation with high water content. Over fertilized and over watered plants are particularly lush and appealing. They also enjoy flower buds.

In the following list deer feeding preferences are classified as follows:

Frequently Damaged-These plants are favored by deer. They may require physical or chemical protection.

Occasionally Damaged-These plants are most likely eaten after the favorites are gone.

Rarely Damaged-These are rarely eaten when other options exist.

Plants in **bold** tend to be extremely resistant to deer feeding.

### **Rarely Damaged Trees**

<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	Bottlebrush buckeye
<i>Aesculus parvia</i>	Red buckeye
<i>Betula</i> spp.	Birch species+
<i>Cedrus deodora</i>	Deodar cedar
<i>Crataegus</i> spp.	Hawthorn species*
<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>	Japanese cedar
<b><i>Ginkgo biloba</i></b>	<b>Ginkgo</b>
<b><i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i></b>	<b>Honey Locust*</b>
<b><i>Ilex opaca</i></b>	<b>American holly*</b>
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern red cedar*
<b><i>Lagerstroemia hybrids</i></b>	<b>Crepe myrtle</b>
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweet gum*
<b><i>Magnolia grandiflora</i></b>	<b>Southern Magnolia*</b>
<b><i>Magnolia virginica</i></b>	<b>Sweetbay Magnolia*</b>
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black gum*
<i>Picea pungens glauca</i>	Colorado blue spruce
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scotch pine
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore*
<i>Prunus serrulata</i>	Japanese flowering cherry

*Sassafras albidum*  
***Taxodium distichum***

Sassafras\*  
**Bald Cypress\***

### **Occasionally Damaged Trees**

*Abies concolor*  
*Acer* spp.  
*Aesculus hippocastanum*  
*Amelanchier arborea*  
*Amelanchier canadensis*  
*Amelanchier laevis*  
*Cedrus atlantica*  
*Cercis canadensis*  
*Chionanthus virginicus*  
*Cornus florida*  
*Cornus kousa*  
*Hamamelis* species  
*Ilex* x *attenuata* hybrids  
*Ilex* x 'Nellie Stevens'  
*Kuelreutaria paniculata*  
*Magnolia soulangiana*  
*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*  
*Pinus* spp.  
*Philadelphus coronaries*  
*Quercus* spp.  
*Salix* spp.  
*Syringa reticulata*  
*Tilia* spp.  
*Tsuga* spp.

White (Concolor) fir  
Maple species+  
Horsechestnut  
Downy serviceberry\*  
Shadbush\*  
Allegheny serviceberry\*  
Atlas cedar  
Redbud\*  
Fringe tree\*  
Dogwood\*  
Kousa dogwood  
Witch hazel species+  
'Foster's' holly  
'Nellie Steven's' holly  
Goldenrain tree  
Saucer Magnolia  
Dawn redwood  
Pine species+  
Sweet mock orange  
Oak species+  
Willow species+  
Japanese tree lilac  
Linden species+  
Hemlock species+

### **Frequently Damaged Trees**

*Chamaecyparis* species  
*Cornus mas*  
x *Cupressocyparis leylandii*  
*Kuelreutaria paniculata*  
*Malus* spp.  
*Prunus* spp.  
*Thuja* spp.

False cypress+  
Cornelian dogwood  
Leyland cypress  
Goldenrain tree  
Apple and crabapple species  
Cherry and plum species  
Arborvitae species+

## Rarely Damaged Shrubs

*Abelia x grandiflora*

*Buxus* spp.

*Callicarpa americana*

*Calycanthus floridus*

***Caryopteris x clandonensis***

***Cephalanthus occidentalis***

*Cornus sericea*

*Cephalotaxus harringtonia* var. *horeana*

*Deutzia gracilis*

*Forstythia* spp.

*Fothergilla gardenia*

*Kalmia latifolia*

*Kolkwitzia amabilis*

*Ilex cornuta*

*Ilex glabra*

***Juniperus chinensis***

*Leucothoe* spp.

*Mahonia* spp.

*Pinus mugo*

*Pieris japonica*

*Pyracantha* spp.

*Sambucus canadensis*

*Sarcococca hookeriana* var. *humilis*

*Syringa vulgaris*

*Viburnum trilobum*

*Virburnum dentatum*

Abelia

Boxwood species

American beautyberry\*

Sweet shrub\*

**Bluebeard**

**Button bush\***

Red Osier Dogwood\*

Japanese plum yew

Deutzia

Forsythia species

Fothergilla

Mountain laurel\*

Beautybush

Chinese holly

Inkberry\*

**Chinese juniper**

Leucothoe species

Grapeholly species

Mugo pine

Andromeda

Pyracantha species

American elder\*

Dwarf sweet box

Common Lilac

American cranberry bush\*

Arrowwood\*

## Occasionally Damaged Shrubs

*Camellias* spp.

*Chaenomeles speciosa*

*Cornus racemosa*

*Cotinus coggygira*

*Cotoneaster* spp.

Camellia species

Japanese flowering quince

Gray dogwood\*

Smokebush

Cotoneaster species

<i>Forsythia x intermedia</i>	Border forsythia
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Smooth hydrangea*
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i>	Panicle hydrangea
<i>Ilex crenata</i>	Japanese holly
<i>Ilex x merserveae</i>	China and blue series of hollies
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry holly*
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia sweetspire*
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Bush cinquefoil
<i>Rhododendron caroliniaum</i>	Carolina rhododendron
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn sumac*
<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	Rugosa rose
<i>Syringa x persica</i>	Persian lilac
<i>Viburnum x juddii</i>	Judd viburnum
<i>Viburnum rhytidophyllum</i>	Leatherleaf viburnum
<i>Viburnum plicatum</i> var. <i>tomentosum</i>	Doublefile viburnum
<i>Viburnum carlessi</i>	Koreanspice viburnum
<i>Weigela florida</i>	Old fashioned weigela

### **Frequently Damaged Shrubs**

<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky dogwood*
<i>Euonymus americana</i>	Hearts-a-burstin*
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	Bigleaf hydrangea
<i>Rhododendron</i> spp.	Deciduous azaleas*
<i>Rhododendron</i> spp.	Evergreen azaleas
<i>Rhododendron catawbiense</i>	Catawba rhododendrons*
<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	Pinxterbloom azalea*
<i>Rosa</i> hybrids	Hybrid tea roses
<i>Syringa patula</i>	Manchurain lilac
<i>Taxus</i> spp.	Yew species

\*Virginia natives.

+Some species are Virginia natives.



**+Have seen damage to these plants in the arboretum grounds.**