

Deer-Resistant Garden Starter Kit

1. Top 20 Deer-Resistant Plants Cheat Sheet

These plants are known for being unattractive to deer but attractive to humans and pollinators! Mix and match based on your zone and sunlight needs.

Plant Name	Sunlight	Bloom Season	USDA Zones	Pollinator Friendly
Lavender	Full Sun	Spring–Summer	5–9	Yes
Russian Sage	Full Sun	Summer–Fall	4–9	Yes
Black-eyed Susan	Full Sun	Summer–Fall	3–9	Yes
Yarrow	Full Sun	Summer	3–9	Yes
Bee Balm	Part Sun	Summer	4–9	Yes
Lamb's Ear	Full Sun	Spring–Summer	4–9	No
Coreopsis	Full Sun	Summer	4–9	Yes
Catmint	Full Sun	Spring–Fall	3–8	Yes
Coneflower	Full Sun	Summer–Fall	3–9	Yes
Salvia	Full Sun	Spring–Fall	4–9	Yes
Ferns	Shade	N/A	Varies	No
Daffodils	Full Sun	Early Spring	3–9	No
Boxwood	Full Sun	N/A (Evergreen)	5–9	No
Spirea	Full Sun	Spring–Summer	4–8	Yes
Hellebore	Part Shade	Late Winter–Spring	4–9	No
Columbine	Part Sun	Spring	3–9	Yes
Dusty Miller	Full Sun	Summer–Fall	8–10	No

Zinnia	Full Sun	Summer–Fall	3–10	Yes
Snapdragons	Full Sun	Spring–Fall	7–10	Yes
Blanket Flower	Full Sun	Summer–Fall	3–10	Yes

2. DIY Deer-Repellent Spray Recipes

Garlic & Hot Pepper Spray

Ingredients:

- 1 bulb garlic
- 1 tsp cayenne pepper or chili powder
- 1 egg (optional, helps mixture stick)
- 1 quart water

Instructions:

1. Blend garlic, pepper, and water until smooth.
2. Let sit overnight to steep.
3. Strain into a spray bottle.
4. Apply to foliage and garden borders every 7–10 days, or after heavy rain.

Tip: Rotate repellents so deer don't get used to a single scent.

3. Weekly Garden Watch Log (Printable)

Use this log weekly to track deer activity and your garden's response.

Week of: _____

- Deer sightings: _____
- Damage noted: _____
- Repellent used: _____
- Effectiveness (1–5): _____

- Weather notes: _____
- Other observations: _____

4. What NOT to Plant (Deer Candy List)

Deer especially love these plants. Avoid them or plant only in protected areas.

- Tulips (choose daffodils instead)
- Hostas (try lamb's ear or ferns)
- Daylilies (use coneflowers or black-eyed Susans instead)
- Roses (if using, protect with fencing or plant deterrents around them)
- Arborvitae (swap with boxwood or juniper)
- Fruit trees (especially young ones)

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