

## Deer Resistant Plants in the Central Sierra

**Fact: There are no deer resistant plants. But there are plants that most deer will not eat if there is an abundance of food.** Most of the plants listed in this document will not be eaten by deer if there is another choice; however this is not a guarantee they won't at least take a sample now and then.

When selecting plants from this list for your landscape be sure that all of the planting criteria are met: temperature, light, moisture and not just the deer tolerant need. Some of these plants may be more suitable in a meadow or pasture for example, than next to your patio or home. For this information consult your professional nurseryperson or appropriate garden books, or call the Master Gardeners (telephone number on the last page).

Plants native to this area of California are more likely to be deer resistant and many have the added bonus of being drought tolerant. (N) indicates that certain species of this plant are native and (D) signifies non-natives that are drought tolerant.



### EL DORADO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



Common name	Botanical	Type	Questions/Comments
Australian Bluebell Creeper	<i>Sollya heterophylla</i>	Annual	
Balsam	<i>Impatiens</i> species	Annual	
Bells of Ireland	<i>Moluccella laevis</i>	Annual	
California Poppy (N)	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	Annual	Technically a perennial, it is usually grown as an annual
Canterbury Bell	<i>Campanula medium</i>	Annual	More accurately is a biennial & reseeds
Floss Flower	<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	Annual	
Garden Cineraria	<i>Senecio hybridus</i>	Annual	Not to be confused with <i>S. jacobaea</i> (Tansy Ragwort) which is on the CAL-IPS invasive list
Godetia	<i>Clarkia amoena</i>	Annual	
Japanese Spurge	<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	Annual	
Pincushion Flower	<i>Scabiosa</i> species	Annual	
Shirley Poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Annual	
Baby's Tears	<i>Soleirolia soleirolii</i>	Ground covers/vine	
Blue Star Creeper	<i>Laurentia fluviatilis</i> ,	Ground covers/vine	
Carolina Jessamine	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	Ground covers/vine	
Carpet Bugle	<i>Ajuga</i> species	Ground covers/vine	
Clematis, (N)	<i>Clematis</i> species (N)	Ground covers/vine	<i>C. terniflora</i> , <i>C. vitalba</i> are not Natives
Creeping St. Johnswort (see note)	<i>Hypericum calycinum</i> (see note)	Ground covers/vine	*Not the invasive, which is <i>H. perforatum</i>

## Deer Resistant Plants in the Central Sierra

Dwarf Periwinkle	<i>Vinca minor</i>	Ground covers/vine	Not to be confused with <i>Vinca major</i> , which is invasive
Dwarf Plumbago	<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i> ,	Ground covers/vine	
Gold Coin	<i>Asteriscus maritimus</i>	Ground covers/vine	
Kenilworth Ivy	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ground covers/vine	
Moss Pink	<i>Phlox subulata</i>	Ground covers/vine	Previously listed as annual
Raoulia	<i>Raoulia australis</i>	Ground covers/vine	Previously listed as annual
Red Trumpet Vine	<i>Distictis buccinatoria</i> ,	Ground covers/vine	
Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	Ground covers/vine	
Wisteria (D)	<i>Wisteria</i> species (D)	Ground covers/vine	
African Corn Lily	<i>Ixia</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
African Daisy	<i>Arctotis</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	Also Annual
Arum	<i>Arum</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Aster (N)	<i>Aster alpinus</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Beach Strawberry, Sand Strawberry	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Bear's Breech	<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Bee Balm	<i>Monarda</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Blanket Flower (D)	<i>Gaillardia x grandiflora</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Bleeding Heart (N) (See note)	<i>Dicentra</i> (N) (see note for Natives)	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	<i>D. formosa</i> , <i>D. formosa</i> ssp <i>oregano</i> , <i>D. nevadensis</i> , <i>D. pauciflora</i> , <i>D. uniflora</i> are Natives
Blue Marguerite	<i>Felicia amelloides</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Bluebell	<i>Scilla</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	Not all are perennial
Blue-eyed Grass (N)	<i>Sisyrinchium idahoense bellum</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Brodiaea (N)	<i>Brodiaea</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Calla	<i>Zantedeschia</i> hybrids (see note)	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	<i>Z. aethiopica</i> is listed on the CAL-IPS Invasive Plant inventory; the <i>Z.</i> hybrids are not
Candy tuft	<i>Iberis</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Catnip	<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Clarkia (N)	<i>Clarkia</i> species (N)	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Coreopsis (D)	<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Cranesbill	<i>Erodium reichardii</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Cranesbill	<i>Geranium</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Crinum	<i>Crinum</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Crocsmia	<i>Crocsmia</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Crocus	<i>Crocus</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Crown Pink, Rose Champion	<i>Lychnis coronaria</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Cushion Pink	<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Cyclamen	<i>Cyclamen</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Daffodil (D)	<i>Narcissus</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	

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Dahlia	Dahlia species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Daylily (D)	Hemerocallis species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Dead Nettle	Lamium maculatum	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Eulalia Grass	Miscanthus sinensis	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
False Spiraea	Astilbe species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Feather Grass, Needle Grass (N) (see note)	Stipa species (see note)	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	S. capensis and S. manicata are listed on the CAL-IPS Invasive Plant inventory
Fescue (N)	Festuca species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	F. arundinacea is listed on the CAL-IPS invasive plant inventory. F. arvernensis, F. bromoides, F. ovina, F. pratensis, and F. trachyphylla are not native; all others are
Floss Flower	Ageratum houstonianum	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Forget-Me-Not	Myosotis species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	Myosotis larifolia is on the Invasive list as limited impact
Fortnight Lily	Dietes iridiodes (D. vegeta)	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	Botanical name changed
Four O'Clock	Mirabilis jalapa	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Foxglove (N)	Digitalis species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	D. purpurea on Invasive list as limited impact; nor is it Native per Cal-Flora. Other digitalis is not considered invasive.
Freesia	Freesia species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Garden Heliotrope	Valeriana officinalis	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Gloriosa Daisy, Black-Eyed Susan (D)	Rudbeckia hirta	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Harlequin Flower	Sparaxis tricolor	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Hellebore	Helleborus species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Hollyhock	Alcea rosea	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	Short-lived but reseeds
Iceland Poppy	Papaver nudicaule	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Indian Mock Strawberry	Duchesnea indica	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Iris (D)	Iris species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Jupiter's Beard, Red Valerian (D)	Centranthus ruber	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Lamb's Ears (D)	Stachys byzantina	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Lily Turf	Liriope species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Lily-of-the-Nile (D)	Agapanthus species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Lithodora	Lithodora diffusa	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Lobelia	Lobelia species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	L. erinus is annual
Madagascar Periwinkle	Catharanthus roseus	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	Usually grown as an annual
Marjoram, Oregano	Origanum species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Matilija Poppy	Romneya coulteri	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	

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Mexican Daisy	<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Mint	<i>Mentha</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Moneywort	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Monkey Flower (N)	<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i> , <i>M. cardinalis</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	Hybrids are not Native
Monkshood (N) (see note)	<i>Aconitum</i> species (see note)	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	<i>A. columbianum</i> is a Native- other species are not
Naked Lady (D)	<i>Amaryllis belladonna</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
New Zealand Flax	<i>Phormium tenax</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Oriental Poppy	<i>Papaver orientale</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Peony	<i>Paeonia</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Pot Marigold	<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Potato Vine	<i>Solanum laxum</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Redhot Poker (D)	<i>Kniphofia uvaria</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Rockcress (see note)	<i>Arabis</i> species (see note)	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	<i>Arabis brewerii</i> (Brewer's Rock Cress) is a Native
Santolina (D)	<i>Santolina</i> species (D)	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Scarlet Larkspur (N)	<i>Delphinium cardinale</i> / <i>D. nudicaule</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Sea Lavender, Statice	<i>Limonium</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Sedge	<i>Carex</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Serbian Bellflower	<i>Campanula poscharskyana</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Shasta Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum x superbum</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Snow in Summer (D)	<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Speedwell	<i>Veronica</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Strawflower	<i>Helichrysum bracteatum</i> (see note)	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	Not to be confused with <i>H. petiolare</i> (Licorice Plant) which is listed on the CAL-IPS Invasive plant inventory
Summer Snowflake	<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Swan River Daisy	<i>Brachyscome</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	Not perennial in EDC. <i>B. iberidifolia</i> is an annual; others are perennial in Sunset zones 14-24 only
Sweet Violet	<i>Viola odorata</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Thrift	<i>Armeria</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Thyme (D)	<i>Thymus</i> species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Transvaal Daisy	<i>Gerbera jamesonii</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Tuberous Begonia	<i>Begonia tuberhybrida</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Umbrella Plant	<i>Cyperus alternifolius</i>	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Verbena (D)	<i>Verbena</i> species (see note)	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	<i>Verbena rigida</i> can be weedy

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Wake Robin (N)	Trillium chloropetalum	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	Native per Cal-Flora
Western Columbine (N)	Aquilegia formosa	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Yarrow (N)	Achillea millefolium	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	
Zinnia	Zinnia species	Perennials, Bulbs, and Grasses	Some are annual
Artemisia (D)	Artemisia species	Shrubs	
Barberry	Berberis species	Shrubs	
Bayberry	Myrica pennsylvanica	Shrubs	
Bottlebrush	Callistemon species	Shrubs	
Boxwood	Buxus species	Shrubs	
Breath of Heaven (White) (Pink aka Pink Diosma)	Coleonema species	Shrubs	
Bright BeadCotoneaster	Cotoneaster buxifolius	Shrubs	Not to be confused with <i>C. franchetii</i> , <i>C. lacteus</i> or <i>C. pannosus</i> , all of which are on the CAL-IPS Invasive Plant Inventory
Bush Anemone (N)	Carpenteria californica	Shrubs	
Bush Poppy (D)	Dendromecon rigida	Shrubs	
Butcher-s Broom	Ruscus species	Shrubs	
Butterfly Bush	Buddleja davidii	Shrubs	Known to be invasive in OR, but not CA
California Fuchsia (N) (aka Hummingbird Flower)	Epilobium californica aka Zauschneria canum	Shrubs	
Cape Plumbago	Plumbago auriculata	Shrubs	
Ceanothus, Island Ceanothus. (N)	Ceanothus species (N)	Shrubs	Some are also groundcovers
Chinese lantern	Abutilon hybrids	Shrubs	Marginally perennial-Zone 8 & above
Cinquefoil	Potentilla species	Shrubs	
Coast Rosemary	Westringia fruticosa	Shrubs	
Common lilac	Syringa vulgaris	Shrubs	
Common Snowberry (N)	Symphoricarpos albus	Shrubs	
Corokia cotoneaster	Corokia cotoneaster	Shrubs	
Creeping Thyme, Wooley Thyme, Lemon Thyme, Common Thyme.	Thymus species	Shrubs	Previously listed as groundcover/vine
Currant or Gooseberry (N)	Ribes species	Shrubs	
Daphne	Daphne species	Shrubs	
Dusty Miller (D)	Senecio cineraria	Shrubs	There are several plants with the common name of "Dusty Miller" . Always check the botanical name.
Dwarf Coyote Brush (N)	Baccharis pilularis	Shrubs	
Elderberry (N)	Sambucus species	Shrubs	
Euryops	Euryops pectinatus	Shrubs	
Evergreen Huckleberry	Vaccinium ovatum	Shrubs	

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Fasthедера	X Fatshedera lizei	Shrubs	
Ferns (N)	(except Pellaea) (N)	Shrubs	
Flannel Bush (N)	Fremontodendron species	Shrubs	
Germander	Teucrium species	Shrubs	
Grevillea	Grevillea species	Shrubs	
Griselinia	Griselinia lucida	Shrubs	
Halimium	Halimium species	Shrubs	
Heath	Erica species	Shrubs	E.lusitanica (Spanish Heath) nominated as invasive in 2 CA counties
Heavenly Bamboo (D)	Nandina domestica	Shrubs	
Holly (see note)	Ilex species (see note)	Shrubs	**Except Ilex aquifolium (English holly) which is on the invasive list
Honey Bush	Melianthus major	Shrubs	
Japanese Aralia	Fatsia japonica	Shrubs	
Japanese Rose	Kerria japonica	Shrubs	
Jerusalem Sage	Phlomis fruticosa	Shrubs	
Juniper (D)	Juniperus species	Shrubs	
Lavender (D)	Lavandula species	Shrubs	
Lions Tail	Leonotis leonurus	Shrubs	
Loropetalum	Loropetalum chinense	Shrubs	
Lupine (N)	Lupinus arboreus	Shrubs	
Manzanita (N)	Arctostaphylos species	Shrubs	
Mexican Orange	Choisya ternata	Shrubs	
Nolina	Nolina parryi	Shrubs	
Oregon Grape (N)	Mahonia aquifolium	Shrubs	
Osmanthus	Osmanthus species	Shrubs	
Parrot Beak	Clianthus puniceus	Shrubs	Shrubby vine
Pineapple Guava (D)	Feijoa sellowiana	Shrubs	
Pyracantha (D) (aka Firethorn)	Pyracantha species	Shrubs	
Redwood Sorrel	Oxalis oregana	Shrubs	
Rhododendron	Rhododendron species (except Azaleas)	Shrubs	
Rockrose	Cistus species	Shrubs	
Rosemary, (D)	Rosemarinus officinalis	Shrubs	
Sage (D)	Salvia species	Shrubs	
Salal	Gaultheria shallon	Shrubs	
Santolina	Santolina species	Shrubs	
Senna	Cassia species	Shrubs	
Siberian Peashrub	Caragana arborescens	Shrubs	
Silverberry	Elaeagnus pungens/Elaeagnus commutata.	Shrubs	
Spice Bush (N)	Calycanthus occidentalis	Shrubs	
Sugar Bush	Rhus ovata	Shrubs	

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Sweet Box	<i>Sarcococca</i> species	Shrubs	
Sweet Hakea	<i>Hakea suaveolens</i>	Shrubs	
Toyon (N)	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Shrubs	
Tree Mallow	<i>Lavatera</i> species	Shrubs	
True Myrtle	<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Shrubs	
Wild Buckwheat (N)	<i>Eriogonum</i> species except <i>E. fasciculatum polifolium</i>	Shrubs	
Acacia	<i>Acacia</i> species	Trees	
American Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Trees	
American Sweet Gum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Trees	
Araucaria	<i>Araucaria</i> species	Trees	
Arborvitae	<i>Thuja</i> species	Trees	
Ash (N)	<i>Fraxinus</i> species	Trees	<i>F. uhdei</i> is on the Cal-Flora list as invasive. <i>F. pennsylvanica</i> is not Native
Black Locust (D)	<i>Robinia pseudocacia</i>	Trees	
Box Elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Trees	
Cajeput Tree, Paperbark Tree	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	Trees	
California Bay (N)	<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	Trees	
California Buckeye (N)	<i>Aesculus californica</i>	Trees	
California Nutmeg (N)	<i>Torreya californica</i>	Trees	
California Pepper Tree	<i>Schinus molie</i>	Trees	
California Sycamore (N)	<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	Trees	
Carob	<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Trees	
Carolina Laurel Cherry	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	Trees	
Catalpa	<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	Trees	
Cedar (D)	<i>Cedrus</i> species	Trees	
Chinaberry	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Trees	
Coast Redwood (N)	<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	Trees	
Dogwood (N)	<i>Cornus</i> species	Trees	
Douglas) Fir (N)	<i>Pseudotsuga</i> species	Trees	Only <i>P. macrocarpa</i> , <i>P. menziesii</i> and <i>P. menziesii</i> var. <i>menziesii</i> are Natives
Empress Tree	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i> ,	Trees	
Eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus</i> species	Trees	
European larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>	Trees	
False Cypress (D)	<i>Chamaecyparis</i> species	Trees	
Fan Palm	<i>Chamaerops humilis</i> ,	Trees	
Fig, Edible	<i>Fig carica</i>	Trees	
Fir (N)	<i>Abies</i> species	Trees	
Gum Myrtle	<i>Angophora costata</i>	Trees	
Hackberry( D)	<i>Celtis</i> species	Trees	

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Hawthorn (N) (see note)	Crataegus species (see note)	Trees	Hawthorn) is on the Cal-Flora Invasive plant inventory
Hazelnut (N)	Corylus cornuta californica	Trees	
Hemlock (N)	Tsuga species	Trees	
Holly (see note)	Ilex species (see note)	Trees	**Ilex aquifolium is on the invasive list as Moderate
Incense Cedar (N)	Calocedrus decurrens	Trees	
Japanese Cryptomeria	Cryptomeria japonica	Trees	
Juniper (N)	Juniperus species	Trees	J. chinensis (Chinese Juniper) and J. scopulorum (Rocky Mountain Juniper) are not Native
Kentucky Coffee Tree	Gymnocladus dioica	Trees	
Madrone (N)	Arbutus menziesii	Trees	
Magnolia	Magnolia species	Trees	
Mayten Tree	Maytenus boaria	Trees	Invasive infestation on Angels Island, San Francisco Bay
Oak (N)	Quercus species	Trees	Q.agrifolia, Q. berberidifolia, Q. chrysolepis, Q douglasii, Q. engelmannii, Q. garryana, Q. kelloggii, Q. lobata, Q. turbinelia, Q. vacciniifolia, and Q. wislizenii
Olive	Oleo europaea	Trees	
Peppermint Tree	Agonis flexuosa	Trees	
Pine (N)	Pinus species	Trees	Native Pinus are: P. albicaulis, P. attenuata, P. contorta, P. c. murrayana, P. edulis, P. flexilis, P. jeffreyi, P. lambertiana, P. longaeva, P. monophylla, P. moticola, P. muricata, P. ponderosa, P. radiata.
She-Oak, Beefwood	Casuarina species	Trees	
Soapbark Tree	Quillaja saponaria	Trees	
Spanish Bayonet	Yucca aloifolia	Trees	
Spruce	Picea species	Trees	
Sweet Bay, Grecian Laurel (D)	Laurus nobilis	Trees	
Tanbark Oak (N)	Lithocarpus densiflorus	Trees	
True Myrtle	Myrtus communis	Trees	
Variegated Box Elder	Acer negundo variegatum	Trees	
Vine Maple	Acer circinatum	Trees	



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Washington Palm (D)	Washingtonia species	Trees	
Western Redbud (N)	Cercis occidentalis	Trees	
Windmill Palm	Trochycarpus fortunei	Trees	
Yew	Taxus species	Trees	

This brochure was compiled by UCCE Master Gardeners, El Dorado County, Spring 1997 and updated Fall 2012. Master Gardeners is a volunteer organization under the direction of the University of California Cooperative Extension. Recommendations are based on local experience and from the following sources: Deer Resistant Plants, Gardener's Guide to Preventing Deer Damage, Dept. of Fish & Game, State of California, Cal-Flora, and Sunset Western Garden Book, Lane Publishing Co.

Original contributors: Master Gardeners Sandra Folmer, Steve Savage, and Robin Stanley. Update contributors: Master Gardeners Merry Campbell and Gail Fulbeck.

The El Dorado County Master Gardener office is located at 311 Fairlane, Placerville, CA. Our office hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 A.M. to noon. Our phone number is 530-621-5512. E-mails may be sent to: [mgeldorado@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mgeldorado@ucdavis.edu). Our website is [http://ucanr.org/sites/edc\\_mastergardeners/](http://ucanr.org/sites/edc_mastergardeners/). Our Facebook page is: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/El-Dorado-County-Master-Gardeners/164653119129>