



Deer Resistant Plants

UCCE Master Gardeners of the Sierra Foothills

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 nursery person or appropriate garden books, or call the Master Gardeners.

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.

Annuals

Baby's Breath <i>Gypsophila elegans</i>	Garden Cineraria <i>Senecio hybridus</i>
Balsam..... <i>Impatiens species</i>	Godetia <i>Clarkia amoena</i>
Bells of Ireland <i>Moluccella laevis</i>	Love-in-a-Mist <i>Nigella damascena</i>
California Poppy (N)..... <i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	Marigold..... <i>Tagetes species</i>
Canterbury Bell <i>Campanula medium</i>	Mexican Sunflower <i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>
Cape Forget-Me-Not..... <i>Anchusa capensis</i>	Mignonette <i>Reseda odorata</i>
Chinese Delphinium	Mountain Phlox aka Prickly Phlox..... <i>Linanthus grandiflorus</i>
aka Candle Delphinium..... <i>Delphinium grandiflorum</i>	Pincushion Flower <i>Scabiosa species</i>
Cockscomb <i>Celosia cristata</i>	Quaking Grass <i>Briza maxima</i>
Cosmos..... <i>Cosmos species</i>	Rose Moss <i>Portulaca grandiflora</i>
Creeping Zinnia <i>Sanvitalia procumbrens</i>	Shirley Poppy <i>Papaver rhoeas</i>
Euphorbia..... <i>Euphorbia species</i>	Spider Flower <i>Cleome species</i>
Floss Flower <i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	Sweet Alyssum <i>Lobularia maritima</i>

Ferns

Maidenhair Fern..... <i>Adiantum species</i>	Wood Fern..... <i>Dryopteris species</i>
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Groundcovers and Vines

Baby's Tears <i>Soleirolia soleirolii</i>	Raoulia <i>Raoulia australis</i>
Blue Star Creeper <i>Laurentia fluviatilis</i>	Red Trumpet Vine..... <i>Distictis buccinatoria</i>
Carolina Jessamine <i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	Wild Strawberry..... <i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>
Carpet Bugle <i>Ajuga species</i>	Wisteria (D) <i>Wisteria species (D)</i>
Clematis, (N) <i>Clematis species (N)</i>	Silver Lace Vine <i>Fallopia baldschuanica</i>
Creeping St. Johnswort <i>Hypericum calycinum</i>	Creeping Thyme, Wooley Thyme,
Dwarf Periwinkle <i>Vinca minor</i>	Lemon Thyme, Common Thyme..... <i>Thymus species</i>
Dwarf Plumbago <i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	Trumpet Creeper aka Trumpet Vine..... <i>Campsis species</i>
Gold Coin <i>Asteriscus maritimus</i>	Australian Bluebell Creeper <i>Sollya heterophylla</i>
Japanese Spurge <i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	Black-Eyed Susan Vine <i>Thunbergia alata</i>
Kenilworth Ivy <i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Sweet Woodruff..... <i>Galium odoratum</i>
Moss Pink..... <i>Phlox subulata</i>	

Perennials, Bulbs and Grasses

African Corn Lily <i>Ixia species</i>	Bergenia <i>Bergenia species</i>
African Daisy <i>Arctotis species</i>	Blanket Flower (D) <i>Gaillardia x grandiflora</i>
Arum <i>Arum species</i>	Bleeding Heart (N) <i>Dicentra (N)</i>
Aster (N)..... <i>Aster alpinus</i>	Blue Marguerite <i>Felicia amelloides</i>
Baby's Breath <i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>	Blue Oat Grass <i>Helictotrichon sempervirens</i>
Basket-of-Gold..... <i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>	Blue Star Creeper <i>Pratia pedunculata</i>
Beach Strawberry, Sand Strawberry <i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	Bluebell <i>Scilla species</i>
Beardtongue <i>Penstemon species</i>	Blue-eyed Grass (N) <i>Sisyrinchium idahoense bellum</i>
Bear's Breech <i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Bowles' Golden Grass <i>Milium effusum 'Aureum'</i>
Bee Balm <i>Monarda species</i>	Brodiaea (N)..... <i>Brodiaea species</i>

Perennials, Bulbs and Grasses, continued

Bugle Lily.....	<i>Watsonia species</i>	Lobelia	<i>Lobelia species</i>
Bulbous Oat Grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> <i>bulbosum</i>	Madagascar Periwinkle.....	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>
Calla	<i>Zantedeschia hybrids</i>	Marguerite aka Paris Daisy	<i>Argyranthemum frutescens</i>
Candle Larkspur aka Scarlet Larkspur	<i>Delphinium x belladonna</i> , <i>Delphinium</i> <i>cardinale</i> , <i>Delphinium</i> <i>elatium</i> , <i>Delphinium nudicaule</i>	Marigold	<i>Tagetes species</i>
Candy tuft	<i>Iberis species</i>	Marjoram, Oregano.....	<i>Origanum species</i>
Canna.....	<i>Canna species</i>	Matilija Poppy.....	<i>Romneya coulteri</i>
Catnip	<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	Mexican Daisy.....	<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>
Century Plant	<i>Agave americana</i>	Mint	<i>Mentha species</i>
Chamomile	<i>Chamaemelum nobiles</i>	Moneywort.....	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>
Clarkia (N)	<i>Clarkia species (N)</i>	Monkey Flower (N).....	<i>Mimulus species</i>
Common Aubrieta	<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>	Monkshood (N).....	<i>Aconitum species</i>
Coral Bells aka Alum Root.....	<i>Heuchera sanguinea</i>	Moor Grass aka Purple Moor Grass	<i>Molina caerulea altissima</i> <i>'Variegata'</i>
Coreopsis (D)	<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i>	Naked Lady (D)	<i>Amaryllis belladonna</i>
Cranesbill	<i>Erodium reichardii</i>	New Zealand Flax.....	<i>Phormium tenax</i>
Cranesbill	<i>Geranium species</i>	Oriental Poppy.....	<i>Papaver orientale</i>
Crinum	<i>Crinum species</i>	Ornamental Rhubarb.....	<i>Rheum</i>
Crococsmia	<i>Crococsmia species</i>	Peony	<i>Paeonia species</i>
Crocus	<i>Crocus species</i>	Peruvian Lily	<i>Alstromeria species</i>
Crown Pink, Rose Champion.....	<i>Lychnis coronaria</i>	Pot Marigold	<i>Calendula officinalis</i>
Cushion Pink	<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Potato Vine.....	<i>Solanum laxum</i>
Cyclamen	<i>Cyclamen species</i>	Prairie Cord Grass.....	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>
Daffodil (D)	<i>Narcissus species</i>	Purple Coneflower.....	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>
Dahlia	<i>Dahlia species</i>	Quaking Grass aka Rattlesnake Grass	<i>Briza media</i>
Daylily (D)	<i>Hemerocallis species</i>	Redhot Poker (D)	<i>Kniphofia uvaria</i>
Dead Nettle.....	<i>Lamium species</i>	Ribbon Grass aka Gardener's Garters	<i>Phalaris arundinacea picta</i>
English Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Rockcress.....	<i>Arabis species</i>
Eulalia Grass	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Rue aka Herb-of-Grace	<i>Ruta graveolens</i>
Euphorbia	<i>Euphorbia species</i>	Santolina (D)	<i>Santolina species (D)</i>
Evening Primrose aka Sundrops	<i>Oenothera species</i>	Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga species</i>
False Spiraea	<i>Astilbe species</i>	Scarlet Larkspur (N)	<i>Delphinium cardinal (D. nudi-</i> <i>caule)</i>
Feather Grass, Needle Grass (N)	<i>Stipa species</i>	Sea Lavender, Statice.....	<i>Limonium species</i>
Fescue (N)	<i>Festuca species</i>	Sea Oats aka Bamboo Grass	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>
Floss Flower	<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	Sedge	<i>Carex species</i>
Forget-Me-Not.....	<i>Myosotis species</i>	Serbian Bellflower	<i>Campanula poscharskyana</i>
Fortnight Lily.....	<i>Diets iridiodes (D. vegeta)</i>	Shasta Daisy.....	<i>Leucanthemum x superbum</i>
Fountain Grass.....	<i>Pennisetum alopecuriodes</i>	Snow in Summer (D).....	<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>
Four O'Clock	<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>	Soft Rush.....	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
Foxglove (N)	<i>Digitalis species</i>	Solomon's Seal.....	<i>Polygonatum species</i>
Freesia	<i>Freesia species</i>	Speedwell	<i>Veronica species</i>
Fringe Cup.....	<i>Tellima grandiflora</i>	Spider Lily	<i>Lycoris squamigera</i>
Garden Heliotrope.....	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Spiderwort.....	<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>
Giant Snowdrop.....	<i>Galanthus elwesii</i>	Stonecrop	<i>Sedum species</i>
Gloriosa Daisy, Black-Eyed Susan (D)....	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Strawflower	<i>Helichrysum bracteatum</i>
Grape Hyacinth.....	<i>Muscari species</i>	Summer Snowflake.....	<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>
Harlequin Flower	<i>Sparaxis tricolor</i>	Swan River Daisy	<i>Brachyscome species</i>
Hellebore	<i>Helleborus species</i>	Sweet Violet.....	<i>Viola odorata</i>
Hollyhock	<i>Alcea rosea</i>	Switch Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>
Iceland Poppy	<i>Papaver nudicaule</i>	Thrift	<i>Armeria species</i>
Indian Mock Strawberry	<i>Duchesnea indica</i>	Thyme (D)	<i>Thymus species</i>
Iris (D)	<i>Iris species</i>	Transvaal Daisy	<i>Gerbera jamesonii</i>
Irish Moss aka Scotch Moss	<i>Sagina subulata</i>	Tuberous Begonia.....	<i>Begonia tuberhybrida</i>
Japanese Anemone	<i>Anemone japonica</i>	Tufted Hair Grass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>
Japanese Sweet Flag.....	<i>Acorus gramineus 'Variegatus'</i>	Umbrella Plant.....	<i>Cyperus alternifolius</i>
Jupiter's Beard, Red Valerian (D)	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Verbena (D)	<i>Verbena species</i>
Lamb's Ears (D)	<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	Wake Robin (N).....	<i>Trillium chloropetalum</i>
Lily Turf	<i>Liriope species</i>	Wallflower	<i>Erysimum species</i>
Lily-of-the-Nile (D)	<i>Agapanthus species</i>	Western Columbine (N)	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>
Lithodora	<i>Lithodora diffusa</i>	Western Hound's Tongue aka Grand Hound's Tongue.....	<i>Cynoglossum grande</i>

Perennials, Bulbs and Grasses, continued

White Cup Flower..... <i>Nierembergia repens</i>	Yerba Buena <i>Satureja douglasii</i>
Yarrow (N) <i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Zinnia <i>Zinnia species</i>
Yellow Foxtail Grass <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> 'Aureus'	

Shrubs

Alpine Totara..... <i>Podocarpus nivalis</i>	Japanese Rose <i>Kerria japonica</i>
Artemisia (D) <i>Artemisia species</i>	Jasmine <i>Jasminium species</i>
Barberry <i>Berberis species</i>	Jerusalem Sage..... <i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>
Bayberry..... <i>Myrica pennsylvanica</i>	Juniper (D) <i>Juniperus species</i>
Beauty Bush <i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i>	Korean Forsythia <i>Forsythia ovata</i>
Bottlebrush <i>Callistemon species</i>	Lavender (D) <i>Lavandula species</i>
Boxwood <i>Buxus species</i>	Lions Tail <i>Leonotis leonurus</i>
Braziliann Flame Bush	Loropetalum..... <i>Loropetalum chinense</i>
aka Trinidad Flame Bush..... <i>Calliandra tweedii</i>	Lupine (N) <i>Lupinus arboreus</i>
Breath of Heaven (White)	Manzanita (N) <i>Arcostaphylos species</i>
(Pink aka Pink Diosma) <i>Coleonema species</i>	Mexican Fire Bush..... <i>Kochia scoparia trichophylla</i>
Bridal Wreath aka Mountain Spirea	Mexican Orange..... <i>Choisya ternata</i>
aka Western Spirea <i>Spiraea species</i>	Mountain Pieris aka Chinese Pieris
Bright Bead Cotoneaster..... <i>Cotoneaster buxifolius</i>	aka Lily-of-the Valley Shrub
Bush Anemone (N)..... <i>Carpenteria californica</i>	aka Japanese Andromeda <i>Pieris species</i>
Bush Morning Glory <i>Convolvulus cneorum</i>	Myoporum <i>Myoporum laetum</i>
Bush Poppy (D)..... <i>Dendromecon rigida</i>	Nolina <i>Nolina parryi</i>
Butcher's Broom <i>Ruscus species</i>	Oregon Grape (N)..... <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>
Butterfly Bush <i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Oregon Grape (N)..... <i>Mahonia species</i>
California Fuchsia (N)..... <i>Epilobium californica</i>	Osmanthus <i>Osmanthus species</i>
(aka Hummingbird Flower) aka <i>Zauschneria canum</i>	Parrot Beak <i>Clianthus puniceus</i>
Cape Honeysuckle..... <i>Tecoma capensis</i>	Pineapple Guava (D) <i>Feijoa sellowiana</i>
Cape Plumbago <i>Plumbago auriculata</i>	Pyracantha (D) aka Firethorn <i>Pyracantha species</i>
Ceanothus, Island Ceanothus (N) <i>Ceanothus species (N)</i>	Red Chokeberry <i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>
Chinese lantern <i>Abutilon hybrids</i>	Redwood Sorrel <i>Oxalis oregana</i>
Chinese Snowball aka Laurustinus..... <i>Viburnum species</i>	Rhododendron..... <i>Rhododendron species</i> (except Azaleas)
Cinquefoil <i>Potentilla species</i>	Rockrose..... <i>Cistus species</i>
Coast Rosemary <i>Westringia fruticosa</i>	Rosemary (D) <i>Rosemarinus officinalis</i>
Coast Silktassel..... <i>Garrya elliptica</i>	Sage (D) <i>Salvia species</i>
Common lilac <i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Salal <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>
Common Snowberry (N) <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Saltbush <i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>
Corokia cotoneaster..... <i>Corokia cotoneaster</i>	Santolina <i>Santolina species</i>
Currant or Gooseberry (N)..... <i>Ribes species</i>	Senna <i>Cassia species</i>
Daphne..... <i>Daphne species</i>	Shining Sumac..... <i>Rhus copallina</i>
Dusty Miller (D)..... <i>Senecio cineraria</i>	Siberian Peashrub <i>Caragana arborescens</i>
Dwarf Coyote Brush (N) <i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Silverberry..... <i>Elaeagnus pungens, Elaeagnus</i> <i>commutata</i>
Elderberry (N) <i>Sambucus species</i>	Smooth Sumac <i>Rhus glabra</i>
Escallonia <i>Escallonia species</i>	Spice Bush (N) <i>Calycanthus occidentalis</i>
Euphorbia..... <i>Euphorbia species</i>	Spine Shrub <i>Adolphia californica (rare)</i>
Euryops <i>Euryops pectinatus</i>	Star Jasmine aka Confederate Jasmine. <i>Trachelospermum jas-</i> <i>minoides</i>
Evergreen Huckleberry <i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	Sugar Bush <i>Rhus ovata</i>
Fatshedera <i>X Fatshedera lizei</i>	Sunrose <i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>
Ferns (N)..... (except <i>Pellaea</i>) (N)	Sweet Box <i>Sarcococca species</i>
Flannel Bush (N)..... <i>Fremontodendron species</i>	Sweet Hakea <i>Hakea suaveolens</i>
Flowering Quince <i>Chaenomeles spp</i>	Sweet Mock Orange..... <i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>
Germander <i>Teucrium species</i>	Toyon (N) <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>
Glossy Abelia..... <i>Abelia x grandiflora</i>	Trailing Lantana..... <i>Lantana montevidensis</i>
Grevillea <i>Grevillea species</i>	Tree Mallow <i>Lavatera species</i>
Griselinia <i>Griselinia lucida</i>	True Myrtle <i>Myrtus communis</i>
Halimium <i>Halimium species</i>	Wild Buckwheat (N) <i>Eriogonum species except E.</i> <i>fasciculatum polifolium</i>
Heath <i>Erica species</i>	
Heavenly Bamboo (D) <i>Nandina domestica</i>	
Holly <i>Ilex species</i>	
Honey Bush <i>Melianthus major</i>	
Japanese Aralia <i>Fatsia japonica</i>	

Trees

Acacia.....	<i>Acacia species</i>	Hawthorn (N)	<i>Crataegus species</i>
American Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Hazelnut (N)	<i>Corylus cornuta californica</i>
American Sweet Gum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Hemlock (N).....	<i>Tsuga species</i>
Araucaria.....	<i>Araucaria species</i>	Hercules' Club aka Devil's Walking Stick	<i>Aralia spinosa</i>
Arborvitae	<i>Thuja species</i>	Holly	<i>Ilex species</i>
Ash (N)	<i>Fraxinus species</i>	Incense Cedar (N).....	<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>
Bigleaf Maple	<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Italian Alder.....	<i>Alnus cordata</i>
Black Locust (D)	<i>Robinia pseudocacia</i>	Japanese Cryptomeria.....	<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>
Black Walnut.....	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Japanese Maple.....	<i>Acer palmatum</i>
Box Elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Juniper (N).....	<i>Juniper species</i>
Cajeput Tree, Paperbark Tree.....	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	Kentucky Coffee Tree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>
California Bay (N)	<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	Madrone (N).....	<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>
California Buckeye (N)	<i>Aesculus californica</i>	Magnolia	<i>Magnolia species</i>
California Nutmeg (N).....	<i>Torreya californica</i>	Mayten Tree.....	<i>Maytenus boaria</i>
California Pepper Tree	<i>Schinus molie</i>	Oak (N)	<i>Quercus species</i>
California Sycamore (N)	<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	Olive	<i>Oleo europaea</i>
Carob	<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Peppermint Tree	<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>
Carolina Laurel Cherry	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	Pine (N).....	<i>Pinus species</i>
Catalpa	<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	She-Oak, Beefwood	<i>Casuarina species</i>
Cedar (D).....	<i>Cedrus species</i>	Silk Tree aka Mimosa	<i>Albizia</i>
Chinaberry	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Smoke Tree	<i>Cotinus coggygia</i>
Coast Redwood (N)	<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	Soapbark Tree	<i>Quillaja saponaria</i>
Cypress (D).....	<i>Cupressus species</i>	Spanish Bayonet	<i>Yucca aloifolia</i>
Dogwood (N).....	<i>Cornus species</i>	Spruce	<i>Picea species</i>
Douglas Fir (N)	<i>Pseudotsuga species</i>	Sweet Bay, Grecian Laurel (D).....	<i>Laurus nobilis</i>
Empress Tree	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	Tanbark Oak (N)	<i>Lithocarpus densiflorus</i>
Eucalyptus.....	<i>Eucalyptus species</i>	True Myrtle	<i>Myrtus communis</i>
European larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>	Variiegated Box Elder.....	<i>Acer negundo variegatum</i>
European Mountain Ash.....	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Vine Maple	<i>Acer circinatum</i>
False Cypress (D).....	<i>Chamaecyparis species</i>	Washington Palm (D)	<i>Washingtonia species</i>
Fan Palm	<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	Western Redbud (N)	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>
Fig, Edible.....	<i>Fig carica</i>	Windmill Palm.....	<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>
Fir (N)	<i>Abies species</i>	Windmill Palm.....	<i>Trochycarpus fortunei</i>
Giant Sequoia	<i>Sequoiadendrob giganteum</i>	Yew	<i>Taxus species</i>
Gum Myrtle.....	<i>Angophora costata</i>	Yew Pine.....	<i>Podocarpus macrophyllu</i>
Hackberry (D).....	<i>Celtis species</i>		

This brochure was compiled by UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County, Spring 1997 updated Fall 2012 and again in Spring 2017. The brochure was then merged with the "Deer-Resistant Plants for the Sierra Foothills (Zone 7) compiled by UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardener of Nevada County. The latter was edited by Cindy Fake, Horticulture and Small Farms Advisor, Placer and Nevada Counties. The UCCE El Dorado, Nevada and Placer County Master Gardeners volunteer organizations 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.

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