**Deer Resistant Plant List**

**Note:**  This list is based on plants that are rarely touched in gardens in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Young deer might sample these, especially when newly planted. When it is dry, deer might browse them also. Nothing is certain when it comes to deer!

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Plant Type** | **Common Name** | **Botanical Name** |
| **Shrubs and Bushes** | Andromedas | Pieris japonica |
|  | Australian fuchsia | Correa pulchella |
|  | Azaleas | Rhododendron, Tsutsuji (evergreen) |
|  | Barberry | Berberis spp |
|  | Bush Anemone | Carpenteria californica |
|  | California lilac | Ceanothus (BlueJeans and Emily Brown) |
|  | Chinese witch hazel | Loropetalum chinese |
|  | Cotoneaster\*\* | Cotoneaster spp \*\* |
|  | Flannel bush | Fremontodendron |
|  | Grevillea (many varieties) | Grevillea sp |
|  | Holly | Ilex spp |
|  | Junipers | Juniperus, spp |
|  | Leucodendron | Leucodendron spp |
|  | Lilacs | Syringa spp |
|  | Manzanita (low variety) | Arctostaphylos (Emerald carpet) |
|  | Manzanita (tall) | Arctostaphylos spp |
|  | Matilija Poppy | Matilija romneya |
|  | Oleander\* | Nerium oleander\* |
|  | Oregon Grape | Mahonia spp |
|  | Pride of Madeira | Echium fastuosum |
|  | Rhododendron | Rhododendron spp |
|  | Rock rose | Cistus spp |
|  | Tea tree | Leptospermum |
|  | Toyon | Heteromeles arbutifolia |
| **Vines** | Carolina Jasmine (yellow) | Gelsimium sempervirens |
|  | Morning Glory | Ipomoea purpurea |
|  | Potato vine | Solanum jasminoides |
|  | Star Jasmine | Trachelospermum jasminoides |
|  | Wisteria\*\* | Wisteria spp \*\* |
|  | Hardenbergia |  |
| B**ulbs and tubers** | Calla Lily | Zantedeschia spp |
|  | Crocus | Crocus spp |
|  | Crown Imperial | Fritillaria imperialis |
|  | Cyclamen | Cyclamen spp |
|  | Daffodils\* | Narcissus\* spp |
|  | Freesia | Freesia spp |
|  | Fortnight African Iris | Dietes iridioides |
|  | Giant snowdrop | Galanthus elwesii |
|  | Grape hyacinth | Muscari |
|  | Iris (some) | Iris spp |
|  | Kaffer lily | Clivia miniata |
|  | Naked Lady | Amaryllis belladona |
|  | Ornamental onions, chives | Allium spp |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Perennials** | African daisy | Osteospermum, fruticosa |
|  | Bee balm | Monarda didyma |
|  | Black-eyed Susan, Gloriosa daisy | Rudbeckia hirta |
|  | Breath of Heaven | Coleonema pulchrum |
|  | Bromeliads | Bromeliaceae |
|  | Bush Marigold | Tagetes lemmonii |
|  | California fuchsia | Zauschneria californica |
|  | Catmint | Nepata cataria |
|  | Christmas or Lenten rose | Helleborus spp |
|  | Daphne | Daphne odorata |
|  | Dead nettle | Lamium spp |
|  | Euryops | Euryops spp |
|  | Feverfew | Chrysanthemum parthnium |
|  | Gaillardia | Gaillardia spp |
|  | Hyssop | Hyssopus officinalis |
|  | Jerusalem sage | Phlomis |
|  | Lamb’s ears | Stachys byzantina |
|  | Lavender, English | Lavandula angustifolia |
|  | Lavender, Spanish | Lavandula stoechas |
|  | Lemon balm | Melissa officinalis |
|  | Leopard plant | Lingularia japonica |
|  | Licorice plant\*\* | Helichrysum petiolare \*\* |
|  | Lion’s tail | Leonotis leonurus |
|  | Lithodora | Lithodora diffusa |
|  | Marguerite | Chrysanthemum frutescens |
|  | Mexican bush sage | Salvia leucantha |
|  | Monkey flower, sticky monkey | Mimulus |
|  | Oak leaf geranium | Geranium |
|  | Scented geranium | Pelargonium fragrans |
|  | Red hot poker | Kniphofia uvaria |
|  | Rosemary | Rosemarinus officianalis |
|  | Sages, many varied leaves | salvia officianalis |
|  | Salvias, many flowering varieties | salvia spp |
|  | Santolinas | Santolina spp |
|  | Society garlic | Tulbaghia violacea |
|  | Spurge, many colors \* | Euphorbia spp\* |
|  | Thyme | Thymus vulgaris |
|  | Wall flower | Erysimum linifolium |
|  | Yarrow | Achilles millefolium |
|  | Worm wood, sage brush | Artemisia sp |
| **Succulents (American)** | Hen and chicks | Sempervivum |
|  | Echeveria | Echeveria family (most of the time) |
|  | Crassula | Crassulaceae family |
|  | Cactus with spines | Cactaceae family |

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|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grass and sedges** | Blue fescue | Festuca sp |
|  | Berkley sedge | Carex tumulicola |
|  | Purple fountain grass | Pennisetum setaceum *'Rubrum'* |
|  | Miscanthus | Miscanthus sp |
|  | New Zealand Flax | Phormium spp |
|  | Rushes | Juncus spp |
|  | Sedges | Carex spp |
|  |  |  |
| **Ferns** | Asparagus fern | Asparagrus densiflorus, meyeri, setaceys |
|  | Bleeding heart | Dicentra spp |
|  | Chain fern | Woodwardia |
|  | Deer ferns | Blechnum spicant |
|  | Japanese painted fern | Athyrium niponicum |
|  | Lady fern | Athyrium Filix-femina |
|  | Maiden hair fern | Adiantum |
|  | Sword ferns | Nephrolepsis |
|  | Tasmanian tree fern | Dicksonia antartica |
|  | Wood fern | Dryopteris |
|  |  |  |
| **Ground Covers** | Carpet bugle | Ajuga reptans, pyramidalis |
|  | Baby tears | Soleirolia soleiroli |
|  | Brunnera (Siberian buglos) | Boraginaceae |
|  | Crane’s Bill | Geranium |
|  | Creeping bramble | Rubus calysinoides |
|  | Creeping Jenny | Lysimachia |
|  | Germander | Teucrium chamaedrys |
|  | Liriope (lily turf) | Liriope spicata |
|  | Lungwort | Pulmonaria |
|  | Santa Barbara daisy (Flebane) | Erigeron karvinskianus |
|  | Sweet woodruff | Galium odoratum |
|  | Wooly thyme | Thymus pseudolanuginosus |
|  | Ice plant\*\* | Aptenia cordifolia \*\* |
|  |  |  |
| **Annuals** | Basil | Ocimum basilicum |
|  | Bush daisy | Argyranthemum frutescens |
|  | Nasturtium | Tropaeolum |
|  | Marigolds | Tagetes spp |
|  | Moss rose | Portulaca grandiflora |
|  | Sweet alyssum | Lobularia maritima |
|  | Wax begonia | Begonia semperflorens |
|  | Zinnia | Zinnea augustifolia |
|  |  |  |
| **Biennials** | Foxglove\* | Digitalis\* |
|  | Purple cone flower | Echinacea purpurea |
|  | Rose Campion | Lychnis coronaria |
|  | Sweet William | Dianthus barbatus |

**\*Denotes poisonous plants**

**\*\*These plants can be invasive, look for non-invasive varieties or control their seeds.**

**Deer Candy**

Here is a list of plants that deer find appetizing. It is far from complete, but identifies the plants you will need to plant behind the fence if you want to keep them in your garden.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agapanthas | Camelia | Petunia | Sweet peas |
| Blueberry | Hosta | Pumpkin | Sweet potato vine |
| Calibrachoa | Hydrangea | Rose (ultimate deer candy) | Tulip |
| Clematis | Lettuce/leaf crops | Solomon’s Seal | Viola |
| Coleus | Magnolia | Phlox, summer & annual |  |
| Crab apple | Orchard fruits | Strawberry |  |

**Deer Repellants Using Odor and Taste**

There are some commercially available solutions and strategies to discourage deer. These require diligence, frequent application and changing strategies to be effective. Key elements to these solutions are the smell of rotten eggs, harsh spices such as garlic, cayenne pepper and hot sauce, milk products such as yogurt or milk, strong smelling soap. In addition, animal products including human hair and blood meal or urine are available.

Sprays may last 2-3 weeks but are washed away by rain or watering and must consistently be reapplied.

**Deer Scare Devices and Strategies Deer Repellent Barriers**

-Mylar strips tied on branches -Fencing—Highest cost but the most assured

-Motion activated lights or sounds -Edge trees and gardens with river cobbles to

-Wind chimes around the yard disturb footing

-Allow dog to leave scent around perimeter of yard -Wrap trunks and shrubs with netting or wire