



# Nursery News

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## Oh Deer – Can Plants Protect Landscaping?

If Deer are hungry enough, no plant is safe. Deer have been known to eat not only every plant within reach but have been photographed eating Salmon right out of the river. What can a designer or landscaper do short of setting up fencing and guard dogs? Over time researchers have compiled a list of Woody plants that can be used individually or in various planting configurations that Deer do not “generally” prefer. The history of Deer traffic and use of a site should be studied to determine the level of prevention that will be necessary. There are many species of woody plants to choose from but if Deer pressure is heavy enough you may want to feed them.

### Other Tips:

- Deer prefer smaller, more juvenile plants
- Use trees that have a heavy rough bark and branch tips that are 6 feet off the ground
- Some trunk protection may be necessary for smaller trees
- Some shrubs take browsing better than others because they re-sprout from the roots
- Use shrubs with aromatic foliage or branches such as Clethra, Calycanthus or Rhus.
- Planting thick tall hedges such as Hawthorn mixed with Spruce and various dense stiff shrubs that Deer have to cross will keep them from entering an area.
- Individual woody plants are more likely to attract Deer browsing or rutting. Clustering plants can keep damage to individual plants to a minimum, and can be a natural pruning technique.

### Deer Love

Arborvitae  
 Cornelian Cherry Dogwood  
 Eastern Redbud  
 Winged Euonymus  
 Malus  
 Norway Maple  
 Prunus  
 Rhododendron  
 Yews



### Deer Sometimes Like:

American Linden  
 Littleleaf Linden  
 Common Witchhazel  
 Cotoneaster  
 Eastern White Pine  
 Hydrangeas  
 Japanese Tree Lilac  
 Late Lilac  
 Persian Lilac  
 Red Maple  
 Sugar Maple  
 Gray Dogwood  
 Pears  
 Saucer Magnolia  
 Serviceberries  
 Oaks  
 Spirea  
 Staghorn Sumac  
 Viburnums  
 Weigela  
 White Fir  
 Willows

### Deer Seldom Like

'Pfitzerana' Junipers  
 'Hetzi' Junipers  
 Common Lilac  
 Dogwoods  
 Red Osier Dogwood  
 Hawthorn  
 White Birch  
 Forsythia  
 Honeylocust  
 Norway Spruce  
 Austrian Pine  
 Pine Mugo  
 Pine Scotch  
**Deer Don't Like**  
 Barberry  
 Boxwood  
 Colorado Blue Spruce