White-tailed deer are responsible for a great deal of landscape destruction. Using landscape plants NOT preferred by deer is one way to prevent or at least lessen damage. The plants deer prefer to eat vary from region to region and change seasonally. No plant is completely deer proof. During the spring, times of drought, and hunger deer will eat anything to survive. They tend to prefer soft vegetation with high water content. Over fertilized and over watered plants are particularly lush and appealing. They also enjoy flower buds.

In the following list deer feeding preferences are classified as follows: Frequently Damaged-These plants are favored by deer. They may require physical or chemical protection. Occasionally Damaged-These plants are most likely eaten after the favorites are gone. Rarely Damaged-These are rarely eaten when other options exist. Plants in bold tend to be extremely resistant to deer feeding.

**Rarely Damaged Trees**

- *Aesculus parviflora* - Bottlebrush buckeye
- *Aesculus parvia* - Red buckeye
- *Betula spp.* - Birch species
- *Cedrus deodora* - Deodar cedar
- *Crataegus spp.* - Hawthorn species*
- *Cryptomeria japonica* - Japanese cedar
- *Ginkgo biloba* - Ginkgo
- *Gleditsia triacanthos* - Honey Locust*
- *Ilex opaca* - American holly*
- *Juniperus virginiana* - Eastern red cedar*
- *Lagerstroemia hybrids* - Crepe myrtle
- *Liquidambar styraciflua* - Sweet gum*
- *Magnolia grandiflora* - Southern Magnolia*
- *Magnolia virginica* - Sweetbay Magnolia*
- *Nyssa sylvatica* - Black gum*
- *Picea pungens glauca* - Colorado blue spruce
- *Pinus sylvestris* - Scotch pine
- *Platanus occidentalis* - Sycamore*
- *Prunus serrulata* - Japanese flowering cherry
**Occasionally Damaged Trees**

- *Abies concolor*: White (Concolor) fir
- *Acer spp.*: Maple species+
- *Aesculus hippocastanum*: Horsechestnut
- *Amelanchier arborea*: Downy serviceberry*
- *Amelanchier canadensis*: Shadbush*
- *Amelanchier laevis*: Allegheny serviceberry*
- *Cedrus atlantica*: Atlas cedar
- *Cercis canadensis*: Redbud*
- *Chionanthus virginicus*: Fringe tree*
- *Cornus florida*: Dogwood*
- *Cornus kousa*: Kousa dogwood
- *Hamamelis species*: Witch hazel species+
- *Ilex x attenuata hybrids*: 'Foster’s’ holly
- *Ilex x 'Nellie Stevens’*: ‘Nellie Steven’s’ holly
- *Kuelreutaria paniculata*: Goldenrain tree
- *Magnolia soulangiana*: Saucer Magnolia
- *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*: Dawn redwood
- *Pinus spp.*: Pine species+
- *Philadelphus coronaries*: Sweet mock orange
- *Quercus spp.*: Oak species+
- *Salix spp.*: Willow species+
- *Syringa reticulate*: Japanese tree lilac
- *Tilia spp.*: Linden species+
- *Tsuga spp.*

**Frequently Damaged Trees**

- *Chamaecyparis species*: False cypress+
- *Cornus mas*: Cornelian dogwood
- *x Cupressocyparis leylandii*: Leyland cypress
- *Kuelreutaria paniculata*: Goldenrain tree
- *Malus spp.*: Apple and crabapple species
- *Prunus spp.*: Cherry and plum species
- *Thuja spp.*: Arborvitae species+
Rarely Damaged Shrubs

Abelia x grandiflora
Buxus spp.
Callicarpa americana
Calycanthus floridus
Caryopteris x clandonensis
Cephalanthus occidentalis
Cornus sericea
Cephalotaxus harringtonia var. horeana
Deutzia gracilis
Forstythia spp.
Fothergilla gardenia
Kalmia latifolia
Kolkwitzia amabilis
Ilex cornuta
Ilex glabra
Juniperus chinensis
Leucothoe spp.
Mahonia spp.
Pinus mugo
Pieris japonica
Pyracantha spp.
Sambucus canadensis
Sarcococca hookeriana var. humilis
Syringa vulgaris
Viburnum trilobum
Virburnum dentatum

Occasionally Damaged Shrubs

Camellias spp.
Chaenomeles speciosa
Cornus racemosa
Cotinus coggygira
Cotoneaster spp.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forsythia</td>
<td>Forsythia x intermedia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth hydrangea</td>
<td>Hydrangea arborescens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese hydrangea</td>
<td>Hydrangea paniculata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China and blue series of hollies</td>
<td>Ilex crenata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winterberry holly</td>
<td>Ilex verticillata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia sweetspire</td>
<td>Ilex x merserveae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia sweetspire</td>
<td>Potentilla fruticosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leatherleaf viburnum</td>
<td>Viburnum rhytidophyllum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doublefile viburnum</td>
<td>Viburnum plicatum var. tomentosum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koreanspice viburnum</td>
<td>Viburnum carlesi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old fashioned weigela</td>
<td>Weigela florida</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Frequently Damaged Shrubs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silky dogwood</td>
<td>Cornus amomum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearts-a-burstin</td>
<td>Euonymus americana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bigleaf hydrangea</td>
<td>Hydrangea macrophylla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deciduous azaleas</td>
<td>Rhododendron spp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen azaleas</td>
<td>Rhododendron spp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catawba rhododendrons</td>
<td>Rhododendron catawbiense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinxterbloom azalea</td>
<td>Rhododendron periclymenoides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hybrid tea roses</td>
<td>Rosa hybrids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchurain lilac</td>
<td>Syringa patula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yew species</td>
<td>Taxus spp.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Virginia natives.
+Some species are Virginia natives.
Have seen damage to these plants in the arboretum grounds.