



DEER RESISTANT PLANTS



For those who have a deer problem, the following plants have been suggested (mostly by the Calif. Extension Service, the rest by experience). These suggestions aren't guaranteed, however; the tastes of deer may change from year to year and area to area. Palatability of plants will vary with stage of growth and season; availability of natural browse changes through the years. In addition, it has been noted that deer seem to munch on ground-covers less than shrubs and that the best protection is a deer fence around the plant (or the area) until the plant is large enough to escape damage.

Trees

LIGHT/WATER: S=Sun PSh=Part Shade Sh=Shade M=Medium D=Dry W=Wet GDr=Good Drainage

| Genus | Common Name | Category | Leaf Retention | Zone | Light | Water |
|----------------|------------------------------|----------|----------------|------|-------|-------|
| Betula | Birch | Tree | Dec | 2 | S | M-W |
| Abies | Fir | Tree | EG | 2 | S-PSh | M |
| Albizia | Silk Tree | Tree | Dec | 7 | S | M |
| Cedrus | Cedar | Tree | EG | 6 | S | M-GDr |
| Cercis | Redbud | Tree | Dec | 6 | S-PSh | M |
| Cryptomeria | Japanese/Chinese Cedar | Tree | EG | 7 | S | M |
| Cupressus | Cypress | Tree | EG | 7 | S | M |
| Diospyros | Persimmon | Tree | Dec | 5 | S | M |
| Eucalyptus | Eucalyptus | Tree | EG | 7-8 | S | M |
| Fraxinus | Ash | Tree | Dec | 6 | S | M |
| Ginkgo | Ginkgo | Tree | Dec | 4 | S | M |
| Gleditsia | Honeylocust | Tree | Dec | 4-6 | S | M |
| Juglans | Walnut | Tree | Dec | 3-6 | S | M |
| Juniperus | Juniper | Tree | EG | 4-5 | S | M-GDr |
| Laurus | Bay Tree/Laurel | Tree | EG | 8 | S | M-D |
| Liquidambar | Sweet Gum | Tree | Dec | 5-7 | S | M |
| Melia | Chinaberry/Bead Tree | Tree | Dec | 7 | S | M |
| Morus | Mulberry | Tree | Dec | 4-6 | S | M-D |
| Picea | Spruce | Tree | EG | 3-7 | S | M-GDr |
| Pinus | Pine Tree | Tree | EG | 3-9 | S | M-W |
| Pseudotsuga | Douglas-Fir | Tree | EG | 4-5 | S-PSh | M-GDr |
| Quercus | Oak Tree | Tree | Dec | 3-8 | S-PSh | M-GDr |
| Robinia | Locust Tree | Tree | Dec | 4 | S | M-D |
| Sequoia | Redwood | Tree | EG | 7 | S | M |
| Sequoiadendron | Giant Sequoia | Tree | EG | 6 | S | M |
| Umbellularia | Oregon/California Bay Myrtle | Tree | EG | 7 | S-PSh | M-GDr |

Shrubs

LIGHT/WATER: S=Sun PSh=Part Shade Sh=Shade M=Medium D=Dry W=Wet GDr=Good Drainage

| Genus | Common Name | Category | Leaf Retention | Zone | Light | Water |
|-----------------|----------------------------|------------|----------------|------|-------|-------|
| Abelia | Abelia | Shrub | Dec | 5 | S-PSh | M |
| Acacia | Wattle/Acacia | Shrub | EG | 8 | S | M-D |
| Aralia | Angelica Tree | Shrub | Dec | 6 | S | M |
| Arbutus | Madrone/Strawberry Tree | Shrub/Tree | EG | 7 | S | M-GDr |
| Astartea | Tasmanian Heather | Shrub | EG | 9 | PSh | M-GDr |
| Baccharis | Sea Myrtle/Coyote Bush | Shrub | EG | 7 | S | M-D |
| Berberis | Barberry | Shrub | Dec | 4 | S | M |
| Buddleia | Butterfly Bush | Shrub | Dec | 5 | S | M |
| Buxus | Boxwood | Shrub | EG | 5 | S-PSh | M |
| Calluna | Heather | Shrub | EG | 5 | S | M |
| Calycanthus | Sweetshrub/Spicebush | Shrub | Dec | 6 | PSh | M |
| Campanula | Bellflower | Shrub | Prn | 5 | S-PSh | M |
| Ceanothus | California Lilac/Buckbrush | Shrub | EG | 6 | S | M-GDr |
| Choisya | Mexican Orange | Shrub | EG | 7 | S-PSh | M-GDr |
| Chrysothamnus | Rabbitbrush | Shrub | SEG | 5 | S | D |
| Corylus | Hazelnut/Filbert | Shrub/Tree | Dec | 4-6 | S | M |
| Cotinus | Smokebush | Shrub/Tree | Dec | 5 | S | M |
| Cotoneaster | Cotoneaster | Shrub/GC | Dec | 4-7 | S | M-D |
| Crataegus | Mayhaw/Hawthorn | Shrub/Tree | Dec | 3-7 | S | M |
| Daphne | Daphne | Shrub | Dec | 6-8 | S-PSh | M-GDr |
| Elaeagnus | Olive/Silverberry | Shrub | Dec | 3-7 | S | M-D |
| Eleutherococcus | Aralia | Shrub | Dec | 4-6 | Sh | M |
| Erica | Heath | Shrub | EG | 6-8 | S | M |
| Euonymus | Burning Bush | Shrub | Dec | 3 | S | M |
| Fatsyhedera | Botanical Wonder | Shrub | EG | 8 | Sh | M |
| Forsythia | Forsythia/Golden Bells | Shrub | Dec | 3-6 | S | M |
| Garrya | Silk Tassel | Shrub | EG | 6-8 | S-PSh | M-D |
| Hebe | Hebe | Shrub | EG | 7-8 | S-PSh | M |
| Ilex | Decidious Holly | Shrub | Dec | 4-7 | S | M |
| Ilex | Evergreen Holly | Shrub | EG | 6 | S | M-D |
| Kalmia | Mountain Laurel | Shrub | EG | 3 | S-PSh | M-GDr |
| Kerria | Gypsy Rose | Shrub | Dec | 5 | S-PSh | M |
| Lagerstroemia | Crape Myrtle | Shrub/Tree | Dec | 6-7 | S | M |
| Lavandula | Lavender | Shrub | EG | 6-8 | S | M-GDr |
| Ligustrum | Privet | Shrub/Tree | EG | 6-8 | S | M |
| Maclura | Osage Orange/Hedge Apple | Shrub | Dec | 5 | S | M |
| Magnolia | Magnolia | Shrub/Tree | Dec | 5-8 | S | M |
| Mahoberberis | | Shrub | EG | 6 | S-PSh | M |
| Mahonia | Oregon Grape/Mahonia | Shrub | EG | 4-9 | S-PSh | M-GDr |
| Myrica | Bayberry | Shrub/Tree | Dec | 3 | S | M |
| Nandina | Heavenly/False Bamboo | Shrub | EG | 6 | S-PSh | M |
| Paeonia | Peony | Shrub/Prn | Prn | 4 | S | M |
| Philadelphus | Mockorange | Shrub | Dec | 4-6 | S-PSh | M |

| Genus | Common Name | Category | Leaf Retention | Zone | Light | Water |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------|----------------|------|-------|-------|
| Pieris | Andromeda Shrub | Shrub | EG | 6-7 | S-PSh | M-GDr |
| Podocarpus | Yew-Pine | Shrub/Tree | EG | 8 | S | M |
| Potentilla | Shrub Potentilla | Shrub | Dec | 4 | S | M |
| Punica | Pomegranate | Shrub/Tree | Dec | 8 | S-PSh | M-GDr |
| Raphiolepis | Indian Hawthorn | Shrub | EG | 7 | S | M-GDr |
| Rhus | Sumac | Shrub | Dec | 3-9 | S | M-GDr |
| Ribes | Currant/Gooseberry | Shrub | Dec | 2-8 | S-PSh | M |
| Rosa | Rose | Shrub | Dec | 3-4 | S | M |
| Rosmarinus | Rosemary | Shrub | EG | 7 | S | M-GDr |
| Santolina | Lavender Cotton | Shrub | Prn | 6 | S | M-D |
| Sarcococca | Sarcococca | Shrub | EG | 7 | S-PSh | M-W |
| Syringa | Lilac | Shrub | Dec | 3-6 | S | M |
| Teucrium | Germander | Shrub | EG | 5-8 | S | M-GDr |
| Thuja | Arborvitae | Shrub | EG | 4-6 | S | M |
| Vaccinium | Huckleberry/Blueberry | Shrub | EG | 5 | S-PSh | M |
| Yucca | Bayonet/Yucca | Shrub | EGP | 3-8 | S | M-GDr |

Vines

LIGHT/WATER: S=Sun PSh=Part Shade Sh=Shade M=Medium D=Dry W=Wet GDr=Good Drainage

| Genus | Common Name | Category | Leaf Retention | Zone | Light | Water |
|-----------------|--------------|----------|----------------|------|-------|-------|
| Celastrus | Bittersweet | Vine | Dec | 3 | S | M |
| Gelsemium | Jessamine | Vine | EG | 7 | S-PSh | M |
| Hedera | Ivy | Vine | EG | 6 | S-PSh | M |
| Jasminum | Jasmine | Vine | Dec | 6-8 | S-PSh | M |
| Trachelospermum | Star Jasmine | Vine | EG | 7-8 | S-PSh | M |
| Vinca | Periwinkle | Vine | EG | 5-6 | PSh | M |
| Wisteria | Wisteria | Vine | Dec | 3-6 | S | M |

Perennials

LIGHT/WATER: S=Sun PSh=Part Shade Sh=Shade M=Medium D=Dry W=Wet GDr=Good Drainage

| Genus | Common Name | Category | Leaf Retention | Zone | Light | Water |
|------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------|------|-------|-------|
| Acanthus | Bear's Breech | Perennial | Prn | 7 | S-PSh | M-GDr |
| Achillea | Yarrow | Perennial | Prn | 4 | S | M-GDr |
| Aconitum | Monkshood | Perennial | Prn | 5 | S-PSh | M-W |
| Alchemilla | Alchemilla | Perennial | EG | 8 | S-PSh | M |
| Alchemilla | Alchemilla | Perennial | Prn | 3 | S-PSh | M |
| Allium | Ornamental Onion | Perennial | Prn | 4 | S | M-GDr |
| Anemone | Anemone/Windflower | Perennial | Prn | 5 | PSh | M |
| Anthemis | Marguerite | Perennial | Prn | 4 | S | M-D |
| Aquilegia | Columbine | Perennial | Prn | 4 | S-PSh | M |
| Artemisia | Sagebrush | Perennial | EG | 4 | S | M-D |
| Asarum | Ginger | Perennial | EG | 5 | Sh | M |
| Astilbe | Astilbe | Perennial | Prn | 5 | S-PSh | M |
| Astrantia | Masterwort | Perennial | Prn | 5 | S-PSh | M |
| Bergenia | Pigsqueak | Perennial | Prn | 3 | Sh | M |

| Genus | Common Name | Category | Leaf Retention | Zone | Light | Water |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------|------|-------|-------|
| Brunnera | Bugloss | Perennial | Prn | 3 | Sh | M |
| Centranthus | Jupiter's Beard | Perennial | Prn | 5 | S | M-D |
| Cerastium | Snow-In-Summer | Perennial | Prn | 5 | S | M-GDr |
| Ceratostigma | Plumbago/Indigo Flower | Perennial | Prn | 5 | S | M-D |
| Chrysanthemum | Daisy | Perennial | Prn | 3 | S | M |
| Cimicifuga | Bugbane | Perennial | Prn | 4 | S-PSh | M |
| Cistus | Rockrose | Perennial | Dec | 7 | S | D |
| Convallaria | Lily-Of-The-Valley | Perennial | Prn | 4 | PSh | M |
| Crocsmia | Montbretia | Perennial | Prn | 7 | S | M-GDr |
| Cyclamen | Cyclamen | Perennial | Prn | 6 | Sh | M |
| Digitalis | Foxglove | Perennial | Bi | 3-6 | PSh | M |
| Eupatorium | Joe-Pye Weed/Mist Flower | Perennial | Prn | 4-7 | S-PSh | M |
| Euphorbia | Spurge | Perennial | EG | 4-7 | S-PSh | M-D |
| Gaillardia | Blanket Flower | Perennial | Prn | 5 | S | M-D |
| Galium | Sweet Woodruff | Perennial | Prn | 4 | S-P | M |
| Geranium | Geranium | Perennial | Prn | 6-8 | S-PSh | M-D |
| Helleborus | Lenten/Christmas Rose | Perennial | EG | 5-7 | PSh | M |
| Iris | Iris | Perennial | Prn | 3-7 | S | M |
| Kniphofia | Torch Lily | Perennial | Prn | 5-8 | S | M-GDr |
| Lobelia | Cardinal Flower | Perennial | Prn | 4 | S-PSh | M-W |
| Lupinus | Lupine | Perennial | Prn | 5-8 | S | M-GDr |
| Lychnis | Maltese Cross/Campion | Perennial | Prn | 5-6 | S | M-GDr |
| Papaver | Poppy | Perennial | Prn | 6 | S | M-GDr |
| Perovskia | Russian Sage | Perennial | Prn | 6 | S | M-D |
| Phlomis | Jerusalem Sage | Perennial | EGP | 7-9 | S | D |
| Romneya | Matilija Poppy | Perennial | EG | 8 | S | M-D |
| Rudbeckia | Black-eyed Susan | Perennial | Prn | 4-5 | S | M |
| Salvia | Sage | Perennial | EGP | 4-9 | S-PSh | M-GDr |
| Scabiosa | Pincushion Flower | Perennial | Prn | 5-6 | S | M |
| Sedum | Sedum | Perennial | EGP | 3-8 | S | M-GDr |
| Senecio | Groundsel/Dusty Miller | Perennial | Prn | 4-7 | S-PSh | M-D |
| Stachys | Betony/Lamb's Tongue | Perennial | Prn | 4-5 | S | M |
| Tanacetum | Tansy | Perennial | Prn | 5-6 | S-PSh | M |
| Thalictrum | Meadow Rue | Perennial | Prn | 5-7 | S-PSh | M-W |
| Veronica | Speedwell | Perennial | Prn | 4-7 | S-PSh | M-GDr |
| Veronicastrum | Bowman's/Culver's Root | Perennial | Prn | 5 | S-PSh | M |

Grasses and Sedges

LIGHT/WATER: S=Sun PSh=Part Shade Sh=Shade M=Medium D=Dry W=Wet GDr=Good Drainage

| Genus | Common Name | Category | Leaf Retention | Zone | Light | Water |
|------------|------------------|----------|----------------|------|-------|-------|
| Carex | Sedge | Grass | Dec | 5 | S-PSh | M-W |
| Festuca | Fescue | Grass | Prn | 5 | S | M-GDr |
| Miscanthus | Maiden Grass | Grass | Prn | 4-7 | S | M-GDr |
| Panicum | Switch Grass | Grass | Prn | 5 | S | M |
| Pennisetum | Fountain Grass | Grass | Prn | 5-7 | S | M-D |
| Phormium | New Zealand Flax | Grass | EG | 8 | S | M-GDr |

Ferns

LIGHT/WATER: S=Sun PSh=Part Shade Sh=Shade M=Medium D=Dry W=Wet GDr=Good Drainage

| Genus | Common Name | Category | Leaf Retention | Zone | Light | Water |
|-------------|-----------------------------|----------|----------------|------|-------|-------|
| Adiantum | Maidenhair Fern | Fern | Prn | 5 | Sh | M-W |
| Asplenium | Harts-Tongue Fern | Fern | EG | 5 | Sh | M-GDr |
| Athyrium | Tatting/Lady/Painted Fern | Fern | Dec | 5 | Sh | M |
| Blechnum | Deer Fern/New Zealand Fern | Fern | EG | 6 | Sh | M-D |
| Cheilanthes | Asian Lip/Silver Rock Fern | Fern | SEG | 5 | S | M |
| Cyrtomium | Holly Fern | Fern | EG | 6-8 | Sh | M-GDr |
| Cystopteris | Walking Fern | Fern | Dec | 3 | PSh | M |
| Dicksonia | Tasmanian Tree Fern | Fern | EG | 9 | Sh | M |
| Dryopteris | Shield/Wood Fern | Fern | EG | 5-7 | Sh | M |
| Matteuccia | Ostrich Fern | Fern | Prn | 4 | S-PSh | M-W |
| Onoclea | Sensitive Fern | Fern | Prn | 4 | S-PSh | M |
| Osmunda | Royal Fern | Fern | Prn | 4-5 | PSh | M-W |
| Polypodium | Licorice Fern | Fern | Prn | 6 | Sh | M-D |
| Polystichum | Western/Soft-Shield Fern | Fern | EG | 5-7 | S-PSh | M-W |
| Thelypteris | River/Marsh/Jap. Beech Fern | Fern | Prn | 6-7 | S-PSh | M |
| Woodsia | Rusty Cliff Fern | Fern | Prn | 5 | PSh | M-GDr |
| Woodwardia | Chain Fern | Fern | EG | 7 | S-PSh | M-W |

Bamboo and Palms

| Genus | Common Name | Category | Leaf Retention | Zone | Light | Water |
|---------------|--------------------------|----------|----------------|------|-------|-------|
| Fargesia | Umbrella/Clumping Bamboo | Bamboo | EG | 5 | S-PSh | M |
| Phyllostachys | Bamboo | Bamboo | EG | 6 | S | M |
| Pleioblastus | Bamboo | Bamboo | EG | 7 | S-PSh | M |
| Sasaella | Bamboo | Bamboo | EG | 7 | S | M |
| Yushania | Bamboo | Bamboo | EG | 7 | S | M |
| Chamaerops | Dwarf Fan Palm | Palm | EG | 8 | S | M |

Groundcovers

| Genus | Common Name | Category | Leaf Retention | Zone | Light | Water |
|--------------|--------------------|----------|----------------|------|-------|-------|
| Gaultheria | | GC | EG | 6-9 | SPH | M |
| Helianthemum | Sun Rose | GC | Dec | 5 | S | M-D |
| Hypericum | St. John's Wort | GC | Dec | 4-7 | S | M-D |
| Lamium | Lamium | GC | Dec | 5 | Sh | M |
| Lithodora | Lithodora | GC | EG | 7 | S-PSh | M-GDr |
| Mentha | Mint/Spearmint | GC | EG | 6 | S-PSh | M |
| Nepeta | Catnip | GC | Prn | 5-7 | S | M |
| Origanum | Oregano | GC | Prn | 5-8 | S | M-GDr |
| Pachysandra | Pachysandra | GC | EG | 6 | PSh | M |
| Thymus | Thyme | GC | Prn | 6 | S | M-D |
| Zauschneria | California Fuchsia | GC | Prn | 5-8 | S | M-GDr |