

# Deer Management Information Sheet

Deer sightings are a frequent occurrence in Montgomery County, Maryland, and many people find them to be the largest hurdle in their gardening/native plant journey.

Options to protect your plants include:

- physical (fencing/caging),
- chemical (repellants),
- biological (resistant plants), and
- using complex plant palettes, with a diverse plant mix grouped closely together.

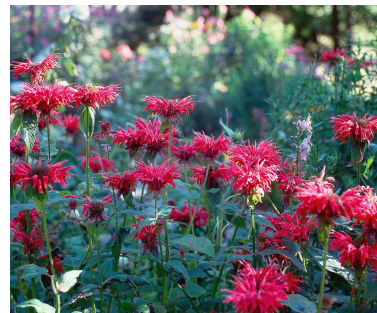
Deer tend to frequent the same areas over time, so discouraging them from visiting early in the planting season is beneficial, as they will be less likely to visit in the future.

Deer resistant plants usually have **fuzzy leaves** and **strong odors** that deter deer from eating them. Even if deer don't eat a shrub or tree they will rub them, so caging is recommended for all young trees and shrubs. Deer also tend to browse from about .5' to 5', so plants either shorter or taller than this are usually more safe.

Although these recommendations have been known to decrease deer presence and consumption of plants, they are not universal. Different regions have different success with these methods, and in lean times, deer will eat more varieties than normal.

## Native Deer Resistant Herbaceous Plants:

- **Mountain mint** (Pycnanthemum)
- **Goldenrods** (Solidago) (These are often nibbled down so may not bloom as well as if shielded behind a fence.)
- **Bee Balms** (Monarda)
- **Aromatic asters** (Symphyotrichum oblongifolium)



Pictured: Bee Balms

Last Revised Sept. 3, 2021

### Native Deer Resistant Grasses:

(Basically all grasses, sedges and rushes, and ferns are deer resistant.)



Pictured: Little Bluestem

- **Bluestems** (*Andropogon spp.*)
- **Canada Wildrye** (*Elymus canadensis*)
- **Indiangrass** (*Sorghastrum nutans*)
- **Little Bluestem** (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
- **Pennsylvania Sedge** (*Carex pennsylvanicum*)
- **Purple Lovegrass** (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)
- **Sea Oats** (*Chasmanthium latifolium*)
- **Soft Rush** (*Juncus effusus*)
- **Switchgrass** (*Panicum virgatum*)

### Native Deer Resistant Trees:



- **Allegheny Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier laevis*)
- **American Beach** (*Fagus grandifolia*)
- **American Holly** (*Ilex opaca*)
- **Bald Cypress** (*Taxodium distichum*)
- **Black Gum** (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
- **Downy Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier arborea*)
- **Eastern Red Cedar** (*Juniperus virginica*)

- **Flowering Dogwood** (*Cornus florida*) (pictured above)
- **Honey Locust** (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)
- **Paw-Paw** (*Asimina triloba*)
- **Pitch Pine** (*Pinus rigida*)
- **Sassafras** (*Sassafras albidum*) (pictured right)
- **Sweetbay Magnolia** (*Magnolia virginica*)
- **Sweetgum** (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
- **Sycamore** (*Platanus occidentalis*)



### Homemade Deer Repellents:

- Hanging a bar of Irish Spring soap above your plants (The smell repels).
- "Rotten Egg Spray"--Combine 3 raw eggs, 3 cloves of garlic, 3 cups of water, 3 tablespoons of milk or yogurt, and 3 tablespoons cayenne pepper in a blender.

Let ferment in a jar outside for three days, and then transfer to a spray bottle. Spray on plants and perimeters of the garden. \*Warning, will have a pungent odor! It is not advised to use this method on areas too close to the home or that are frequented.\*

- Sprinkling chili powder or flakes on plants that deer like to eat.

Note: Repellants have to be replenished after rain. Disclaimer: UER has not used these options, but they have good reviews from other sources.

#### Store-bought Deer Repellents:

- Bobbex Concentrate Deer Repellent
- Deer Out Concentrate Deer Repellent
- I Must Garden Deer Repellent
- Repels-all



#### Montgomery County Recommendations:

- Hang a bar of soap from the tree branches
- Utilize high fencing that deer cannot step over (can be purchased at most gardening stores, or stores like Home Depot and Lowe's)
- Utilize motion sensors and other technology that will create movement to scare away deer
  - Other options include hanging CD's or windchimes that will startle deer
- Planting a mix of plants closely together, including some deer repellent choices, will help deter deer from those they usually like (recommended)
- Electronic devices - some make sounds, some give a mild shock - you need to move them around to be effective.



#### Resources:

- [Maryland DNR](#)
- [My Green Montgomery](#)
- [Montgomery Co. Suggestions](#)
- ["How I Saved My Garden"](#)
- [Best Deer Repellants](#)
- [Deer-resistant Native Plants for the Northeast by Ruth Rogers Clausen and Gregory Tepper.](#)

Note that rabbits can also do a number on new gardens - temporary caging and use of repellents when planting can help give the new plants a chance to get started.