

Williamson County
PROFESSIONAL BULLETIN
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

WILLIAMSON COUNTY CENTER – 3151 SE INNER LOOP, GEORGETOWN, TX 78626 – (512) 930-4400

Deer-Resistant Landscape Plants

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Deer can be a major landscape menace – both rural and sometimes urban – in the Hill Country and other areas overpopulated with deer. Deer-proof landscape plants are much in demand.

Few plants are fully deer-proof, but a number of species are unpalatable enough to be left alone as other food is available. Droughts and other situations that create a serious food shortage can cause deer to lose their inhibitions and eat otherwise unpalatable plants – including most of those listed below. With this disclaimer in mind, the list that follows was prepared.

This list is a compilation from personal observations, suggestions by area nurserymen-landscapers, and from other lists.

SMALL TREES OR LARGE SHRUBS

Texas Buckeye (*Acsculus arguta*) ** ***
Golden Ball Lead Tree (*Leucana retusa*) **
Texas Persimmon (*Diospyros texana*) **
Fig (*Ficus* spp.)
Flameleaf Sumac (*Rhus lanceolata*) **
Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*) **
Mountain Laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*) **
Roughleaf Dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*) ** ***

PERENNIAL SUCCULENTS AND LILIES

Cactus (*Opuntia* spp.) any with stout spines **
Hen and chickens (*Sempervivum* spp.) (spiny varieties)
Yucca (*Yucca* spp.) **
Red Yucca (*Hesperalve pavariflora*) flowers eaten **
Sotol (*Dasyilirion* spp.) * **
Sacaahuista/Bear Grass/Nolina (*Nolina* spp.) **
Lily of the Nile (*Agapanthus* spp.)
Cast-Iron Plant (*Aspidistra elatior*) ***

VINES

Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*)
Star Jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) *

GROUND COVERS

Asiatic Jasmine (*Trachelospermum asiaticum*) *
Santolina (*Santolina* spp.) **
Aarons Beard (*Hypericum calycinum*)
Spearmint (*Menta spicata*) ***
Myrtle (*Vinca major*) ***
Carpet Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*) * ***
Monkey Grass (*Ophiopogon japonica*) *

LARGE TREES

None have been observed to be resistant enough to leave unprotected. Fortunately trees can be caged until they grow taller than the deer.



SHRUBS

Ceniza/Texas Sage (*Leucophyllum* spp.) * **
Oleander (*Nerium oleander*)
Red-leaf or Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)
Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)
Mexican Buckeye (*Ungnadia speciosa*) **
Mexican Oregano (*Poliomintha longifolia*)
Boxwood (*Buxus microphylla*)
Cotoneaster ('Coral Beauty' *Cotoneaster dammeri*) *
Dwarf Yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*) **
Fragrant Mimosa (*Mimosa borealis*) **
Pyracantha (*Pyracantha coccinea*) *
Goldcup (*Hypericum* spp.)
Autumn Sage (*Salvia greggii*) ** ***
Mexican silktassle (*Gaura lindheimeri*) **
Juniper (*Juniperus* spp.) * **
Agarita (*Berberis trifloriolata*) **
Blackberry (*Rubus* spp.) (thorny only) * **
Evergreen Sumac (*Rhus virens*) **
Nandina (*Nandina* spp.) * ***
Autumn Aster (*Aster oblingifolius*) *
Turk's cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus*) ** ***
Elaeagnus (*Elaeagnus* spp.)
Dwarf Chinese Holly (*Ilex cornuta*)
Japanese Aralia (*Aralia sieboldii*)
Aucuba (*Aucuba japonica*) ***
Abelia (*Abelia* spp.)
Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) * **
Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia* spp.)
Lantana (*Lantana horrida*)
(natives resistant/hybrids not) * **

FLOWERS, FERNS, HERBS

Mexican Mint Marigold (*Tagetes* spp.)
Bluebonnet (*Lupinus texensis*) **
Cedar Sage (*Salvia roemeriana*) ** ***
Verbena (*Verbena* spp.) **
Zexmenia (*Zexmenia hispida*) **
Iris (*Iris* spp.) *
Begonia (*Begonia* spp.) *
Indigo Spires (*Salvia* spp.)
Mexican Bush Sage (*Salvia leucanthia*) *
Periwinkle (*Vinca rosea*)
Dusty Miller (*Senecio cineraria*)
Ageratum (*Ageratum* spp.)
Coreopsis (*Coreopsis* spp.) **
Yarrow (*Achillea filipendulina*) **
Cosmos (*Cosmos bipinnatus*)
Foxglove (*Digitalis* spp.) **
Purple Cone Flower (*Echinacea angustifolia*) * **
Flame Acanthus (*Anisacanthus wrightii*)
Zinnia (*Zinnia* spp.) *
Blackfoot Daisy (*Melampodium lecanthum*) **
Chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum* spp.) (flowers eaten)
Wood Fern (*Dryopteris* spp.) ** ***
Sword Fern (*Nephrolepis* spp.) ***
Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) **
Mealy Blue Sage (*Salvia farinacea*) **
Jerusalem Cherry (*Solanum pseudocapsicum*)

*Observed heavily eaten under pressure

**Texas Natives

***Shade Tolerant

