



Cooperative Extension

2 South Green Street
(209) 533-5696

<http://cetuolumne.ucdavis.edu>



Tuolumne County

Sonora, CA 95370
FAX (209) 532-8978

cetuolumne@ucdavis.edu



Deer Resistant Plants for Foothill Gardens

Being able to watch wildlife in your own backyard can be part of the appeal of living in the foothills, but when browsing deer destroy your garden the charm wears off. If fencing your garden is not an option for you, you can minimize landscape damage caused by hungry deer by using landscape plants that deer don't seem to like. Keep in mind that this list of trees and plants is only a guide and not the final word. Time of year, drought, taste preferences of individual deer and other factors can affect whether the deer will decide to browse on these plants.

Both California native and introduced plants are included in this list. Native plants are designated by "(CN)". "(Some CN)" means that some subspecies of the plant are native to California.

Genus species. Common Name

Trees

Abies spp. Fir
Acacia spp. Acacia
Acer macrophyllum. Bigleaf Maple (CN)
Acer negundo. Box elder (CN)
Acer palmatum. Japanese Maple
Albizia julibrissin. Silk tree, Mimosa
Arbutus menziesii. Madrone (CN)
Arbutus unedo. Strawberry tree
Calocedrus decurrens. Incense cedar (CN)
Catalpa bignonioides. Common catalpa
Cedrus spp. Atlas and Deodar cedar
Cercis occidentalis. Western redbud (CN)
Chamaecyparis spp. False Cypress (some CN)
Chamaerops humilis. Mediterranean fan palm
Corylus cornuta californica. Western hazelnut (CN)
Cotinus coggygria. Smoke tree
Cryptomeria japonica 'Elegans'. Plum cedar
Cupressus spp. Cypress
Diospyros virginiana. Persimmon
Fraxinus spp. Ash
Ginkgo biloba. Maidenhair tree
Gleditsia spp. Locust
Juglans spp. Black walnut
Juniperus spp. Juniper (some CN)
Larix decidua. European larch
Laurus nobilis. Sweet bay, Grecian laurel
Liquidambar styraciflua. Sweet gum
Magnolia spp. Magnolia
Picea spp. Spruce (some CN)
Pinus spp. Pine (some CN)

Pistacia chinensis. Chinese pistache
Platanus racemosa. California sycamore (CN)
Podocarpus spp. Yew pine
Pseudotsuga menziesii. Douglas fir
Quercus spp. Oak (some CN)
Salix spp. Willow
Sequoia sempervirens. Coast redwood (CN)
Sequoiadendron giganteum. Giant sequoia (CN)
Sorbus aucuparia. European mountain ash
Taxus spp. Yew
Thuja spp. Arborvitae (some CN)
Torreya californica. California nutmeg (CN)
Trachycarpus fortunei. Windmill palm
Umbellularia californica. California bay, Calif. laurel

Shrubs

Abelia grandiflora. Glossy abelia
Aesculus californica. California buckeye (CN)
Arctostaphylos spp. Manzanita (some CN)
Aucuba japonica. Gold dust plant, Japanese aucuba
Baccharis pilularis. Dwarf coyote brush (CN)
Berberis spp. Barberry (some CN)
Buddleia davidii. Butterfly bush
Buxus spp. Boxwood
Calycanthus occidentalis. Western spice bush (CN)
Caragana arborescens. Siberian peashrub

Carpenteria californica. Bush anemone (CN)
Ceanothus spp. Wild lilac (some CN)
Chaenomeles japonica. Flowering quince
Chamaerops humilis. Mediterranean fan palm
Cistus spp. Rockrose
Coleonema spp. Breath of heaven
Daphne spp. Daphne
Dendromecon spp. Bush poppy
Dodonaea viscosa. Hopseed bush
Elaeagnus pungens. Silverberry
Escallonia spp. Escallonia
Euonymus japonica. Evergreen euonymus
Euphorbia spp. Spurge
Fatsia japonica. Japanese aralia
Forsythia spp. Forsythia
Fremontodendron spp. Flannel bush (some CN)
Garrya spp. Silk tassel (CN)
Gaultheria shallon. Salal (CN)
Grevillea spp. Grevillea
Halimium spp. Sunrose (some CN)
Heteromeles arbutifolia. Toyon (CN)
Holodiscus discolor. Cream bush (sea foam) (CN)
Ilex spp. (except thornless). Holly (note: English Holly is invasive)
Juniperus spp. Juniper
Kerria japonica. Kerria (Japanese rose)
Kolkwitzia amabilis. Beauty bush
Lagerstroemia indica. Crape myrtle
Lavandula spp. Lavender
Ligustrum spp. (except glossy privet) Privet
Mahonia spp. Mahonia, Oregon grape
Myrica californica. Pacific wax myrtle (CN)
Myrtus communis. True myrtle
Nandina domestica. Heavenly bamboo
Osmanthus spp. Osmanthus (sweet olive)
Paeonia suffruticosa. Tree peony
Philadelphus coronaries. Sweet mock orange
Phlomis fruticosa. Jerusalem sage
Phormium tenax. New Zealand flax
Potentilla fruticosa (deciduous types). Cinquefoil (some CN)
Prunus caroliniana. Carolina laurel cherry
Prunus ilicifolia. Hollyleaf cherry (CN)
Punica granatum 'Nana'. Dwf. flowering pomegranate
Quince, fruiting. Fruiting quince
Rhamnus californicus. Coffeeberry (some CN)
Rhododendron spp. (except azaleas). Rhododendron
Rhus ovata. Sumac, Sugar bush (CN)
Ribes spp. Currant, gooseberry (some CN)
Romneya coulteri. Matilija poppy (CN)
Rosmarinus officinalis. Rosemary
Ruscus aculeatus. Butcher's broom
Salvia spp. Sage
Sambucus caerulea. Blue elderberry (CN)

Santolina spp. Santolina (lavender cotton)
Sarcococca spp. Sarcococca
Spiraea ssp. Spirea
Symphoricarpos albus. Common snowberry (CN)
Syringa vulgaris. Common lilac
Teucrium spp. Germander
Vaccinium ovatum. Evergreen huckleberry (CN)
Viburnum tinus. Laurustinus
Viburnum burkwoodii. Viburnum
Viburnum davidii. Viburnum
Yucca spp. Yucca, Spanish bayonet (some CN)
Zauschneria spp (Epilobium). California fuchsia (some CN)

Ferns

All except Pellaea although some of the tender new curls may be eaten in the spring

Perennials

Acanthus mollis. Bear's breech
Achillea spp. Yarrow (some CN)
Aconitum spp. Monkshood (some CN)
Agapanthus spp. Lily-of-the-Nile
Anemone hybrida. Japanese anemone
Aquilegia spp. Columbine (some CN)
Arabis spp. Rockcress
Arctotis spp. African daisy
Armeria spp. Thrift, Sea pink
Artemisia spp. Artemisia, Wormwood
Asarum caudatum. Wild ginger (CN)
Aster alpinus. Aster
Astilbe. False spiraea
Aubrieta deltoidea. Common aubrieta
Aurinia saxatilis. Basket-of-gold, Perennial alyssum
Bergenia spp. Bergenia
Cactaceae spp. Cactus
Campanula medium. Canterbury bells
Centranthus ruber. Jupiter's beard, Red valerian
Cerastium tomentosum. Snow-in-summer
Ceratostigma spp. Plumbago
Chrysanthemum maximum. Shasta daisy
Chrysanthemum parthenium. Feverfew
Convolvulus cneorum. Bush morning glory
Coreopsis spp. (except C. gigantea). Coreopsis
Coronilla varia. Crown vetch
Cynoglossum grande. Western hound's tongue (CN)
Dicentra spp. Bleeding heart
Digitalis spp. Foxglove
Dendromecon. Bush poppy
Echinacea purpurea. Purple coneflower

Epimedium. Epimedium
Eriogonum spp. Wild buckwheat (CN)
Erodium reichardii. Cranesbill, Alpine geranium
Eschscholzia californica. California poppy (CN)
Euphorbia spp. Euphorbia
Filipendula spp. Filipendula
Gaillardia grandiflora. Blanket flower
Galium odoratum. Sweet woodruff
Gaura lindheimeri. Gaura
Geum ciliatum. Prairie smoke
Gypsophila paniculata. Baby's breath
Halimium spp. Sunrose (some CN)
Helianthemum nummularium. Sun rose
Helleborus spp. Hellebore
Hemerocallis spp. Daylily
Heuchera sanguinea. Coral bells
Iberis spp. Candytuft
Iris spp. Iris
Kniphofia uvaria. Red-hot poker
Lamium spp. Dead nettle
Lavandula spp. Lavender
Limonium. Statice
Lithodora diffusa. Lithodora
Lobelia cardinalis. Cardinal flower
Lupinus spp. Lupine (some CN)
Lychnis coronaria. Crown-pink
Mentha spp. Mint
Mimulus spp. Monkeyflower
Mirabilis jalapa. Four o'clock
Miscanthus sinensis. Eulalia grass
Monarda spp. Bee balm
Myosotis spp. Forget-me-not
Nepeta spp. Catmint
Nierembergia repens. White cup flower
Oenothera spp. Evening primrose
Origanum spp. Marjoram, Oregano
Papaver orientale and nudicaule. Oriental and Iceland poppy
Penstemon spp. Penstemon, Beard tongue (some CN)
Phlomis fruticosa. Jerusalem sage
Phlox subulata. Creeping phlox, moss phlox
Phormium tenax. New Zealand flax
Romneya coulteri. Matilija poppy
Rosmarinus officinalis. Rosemary
Rudbeckia hirta. Gloriosa daisy, Black-eyed Susan
Ruta graveolens. Common rue
Santolina chamaecyparissus. Lavender cotton
Satureja douglasii. Yerba buena
Saxifraga spp. Saxifrage
Scabiosa spp. Pincushion flower
Senecio cineraria. Dusty miller
Silene acaulis. Cushion pink
Sisyrinchium spp. Blue-eyed grass (some CN)
Stachys byzantina. Lamb's ears
Stipa spp. Feather grass, Needle grass

Tanacetum spp. Tansy
Tellima grandiflora. Fringe cup
Teucrium fruticans. Bush germander
Tradescantia spp. Spiderwort
Thymus spp. Thyme
Verbena spp. Verbena
Zauschneria spp. California fuchsia

Annuals

Ageratum houstonianum. Ageratum
Anchusa capensis. Cape forget-me-not
Arctotis spp. African daisy
Calendula officinalis. Calendula
Catharanthus roseus. Periwinkle, Vinca
Celosia cristata. Cockscomb
Centaurea cyanus. Bachelor's button
Clarkia amoena. Farewell-to-spring (some CN)
Cleome spinosa. Spider flower
Coreopsis tinctoria. Annual coreopsis
Cosmos spp. Cosmos
Dyssodia tenuiloba. Dahlberg daisy
Eschscholzia californica. California poppy
Gaillardia pulchella. Annual gaillardia
Gerbera jamesonii. Transvaal daisy, Gerbera daisy
Gypsophila elegans. Baby's breath
Helianthus spp. Sunflowers
Helichrysum spp. Strawflower
Impatiens balsamina. Balsam
Impatiens wallerana. Impatiens
Ipomoea spp. Morning glory
Kochia scoparia trichophylla. Mexican fire bush
Limonium sinuatum. Statice
Lobelia erinus. Lobelia
Lobularia maritime. Sweet alyssum
Lupinus spp. Lupine
Moluccella laevis. Bells-of-Ireland
Myosotis sylvatica. Forget-me-not
Nigella damascena. Love-in-the-mist
Papaver rhoeas. Shirley poppy
Portulaca grandiflora. Rose moss
Reseda odorata. Mignonette
Salvia spp. Salvia
Sanvitalia procumbens. Creeping zinnia
Scabiosa atropurpurea. Pincushion flower
Tagetes spp. Marigold
Tithonia rotundifolia. Mexican sunflower
Tropaeolum. Nasturtium
Viola x wittrockiana. Pansy
Zinnia spp. Zinnia

Groundcovers

Achillea tomentosa. Woolly yarrow
Ajuga spp. Carpet bugle, Ajuga
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi. Bearberry (CN)
Armeria spp. Thrift, Sea pink

Asarum caudatum. Wild ginger (CN)
Campanula isophylla and others. Campanula
Cerastium tomentosum. Snow-in-summer
Ceratostigma plumbaginoides. Dwarf plumbago
Chamaemelum nobile. Chamomile
Cymbalaria muralis. Kenilworth ivy
Duchesnea indica. Mock strawberry
Epimedium. Epimedium
Erodium chamaedryoides. Cranesbill
Fragaria chiloensis. Ornamental strawberry
Galium odoratum. Sweet woodruff
Helianthemum nummularium. Sun rose
Herniaria glabra. Green carpet
Isotoma fluviatilis. Blue star creeper
Juniperus spp. Juniper
Lamium spp. Dead nettle
Liriope and Ophiopogon spp. Lily turf
Lithodora diffusa. Lithodora
Lysimachia nummularia. Moneywort
Mentha requienii. Corsican mint
Pachysandra terminalis. Japanese spurge
Potentilla spp. Potentilla, creeping varieties
Raoulia australis. Raoulia, Carpeting plant
Rosmarinus officinalis (prostrate forms). Rosemary
Sagina sublata. Irish moss, Scotch moss
Satureja douglasii. Yerba buena
Sedum spp. Stonecrop
Sisyrinchium spp. Blue-eyed grass
Soleirolia soleirolii. Baby tears
Teucrium chamaedrys 'Prostratus'. Prostrate germander
Thymus spp. Thyme
Veronica repens. Creeping veronica

Vines

Anredera cordifolia. Madeira vine
Aristolochia californica. California dutchman's pipe (CN)

Plant hardiness is based on Sunset Western Garden Book Climate Zone 7.

Campsis spp. Trumpet creeper, trumpet vine
Clematis spp. Clematis
Gelsemium sempervirens. Carolina jessamine
Jasminum spp. Jasmine
Ribes spp. Currant, gooseberry (some CN)
Polygonum aubertii. Silver lace vine
Solanum jasminoides. Potato vine
Trachelospermum jasminoides. Star jasmine
Wisteria spp. Wisteria

Bulbs and Fleshy Roots

Allium (some). Ornamental allium
Alstroemeria. Peruvian lily
Amaryllis belladonna. Naked lady
Arum spp. Arum
Begonia tuberhybrida. Tuberous begonia
Brodiaea spp. Brodiaea (CN)
Colchicum autumnale. Meadow saffron
Crocsmia spp. Crocosmia
Crocus. Crocus
Cyclamen spp. Cyclamen
Dicentra formosa. California bleeding heart (CN)
Dicentra spectabilis. Common bleeding heart
Dichelostemma ida-maia. Firecracker flower
Eremurus. Desert candle
Freesia spp. Freesia
Fritillaria imperialis. Crown imperial
Galanthus elwesii. Giant snowdrop
Iris spp. Iris
Ixia spp. African corn lily
Leucojum spp. Snowflake
Mirabilis jalapa. Four o'clock
Muscari. Grape hyacinth
Narcissus spp. Daffodil, Narcissus
Scilla spp. Squill, Bluebell
Sternbergia. Autumn crocus
Trillium spp. Trillium (some CN)
Watsonia. Bugle lily

Sources: "Sunset Western Garden Book," "A Gardener's Guide to Preventing Deer Damage," "Seldom Eaten, Not Never--Deer-Resistant Plants," "Deer Resistant Planting," "Deer Resistant Plants for the Garden," and "Water Use Classification of Landscape Species."