

## DEER RESISTANT NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE CENTRAL SIERRA FOOTHILLS

Deer can be a problem at any time in your garden. They are often more of a problem in the seasons when your plants provide some of the limited amount of green vegetation available. They were here first and can hardly be blamed for relishing your roses. Rabbits too can cause a problem and many of these suggestions apply to deterring them as well.

There are a number of plants that deer may eat occasionally and others that they rarely will touch. Generally, they relish the new growth, leaving the mature leaves behind. Since they are browsing animals, they may devour a plant in your garden and then walk right past the same species in your neighbor's garden.

However, deer will browse on most NEW plantings regardless of taste. So, it's a good idea to protect the young plants with some type of wire cage. After two years, or so, when the plants are established and of a larger size, remove the wire cage in late summer. At that time when the deer come to browse, many native plants are in their dormancy period. The leaves are mature and tough and not very tasty. The "pruning" of the branch tips by the deer in late July and August generally does little harm to the health and future growth of the mature plant-unless the deer population is excessive.

Various methods have been used to attempt to discourage deer. Most have presented some problems and had limited success. Sprinkling the plants with dry blood meal, lion scent and other bad smelling materials works only for short periods and these wash off with rain. Fish line between trees, sunflower or corn mazes and movement activated sprinkles interfere with other garden activities. Fences must be about eight feet high with no places to squeeze under or through. Such fences are expensive. A nearby water source encourages deer but lack of one does not discourage them.

### CALIFORNIA NATIVE TREES

<i>Abies species</i>	White Fir, Grand Fir
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Big-leaf Maple
<i>Acer negundo var. californicum</i>	Box Elder
<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	Madrone
<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	Incense Cedar
<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	Lawson Cypress
<i>Juniperus spp</i>	all native species, trees & shrubs
<i>Uthocarpus densiflorus</i>	Tan Oak
<i>Pinus spp.</i>	Ponderosa, Jeffrey, others
<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	California Sycamore
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas Fir
<i>Quercus spp.</i>	Valley, Interior Live, Blue & other oaks
<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	California Bay

### CALIFORNIA NATIVE SHRUBS

<i>Arctostaphylos species</i>	all manzanitas: groundcovers & shrubs
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Coyote Brush
<i>Berberis aquifolium &amp; others</i>	Oregon-grape; Barberry
<i>Calycanthus occidentalis</i>	Spicebush
<i>Carpenteria californica</i>	Tree-Anemone
<i>Ceanothus spp.</i>	small leaf varieties
<i>Cercis.occidentalis</i>	Western Redbud
<i>Dendromecon rigida</i>	Bush Poppy

## CALIFORNIA NATIVE SHRUBS (CONT.)

<i>Fremontodendron californicum</i>	Flannelbush
<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	Silk Tassel, several species
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	Salal
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon
<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Cream Bush
<i>Lupinus albifrons</i>	Bush Lupine
<i>Myrica californica</i>	Pacific Wax Myrtle
<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	Coffee Berry, several species
<i>Rhododendron occidentale</i>	Western Azalea
<i>Rhus ovata</i>	Sugar Bush
<i>Ribes spp.</i>	Evergreen & Flowering Currants
<i>Romneya coulteri!</i>	Matilija Poppy
<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	Thimbleberry
<i>Trichostema lanatum</i>	Woolly Bluecurls

## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PERENNIALS, BULBS AND GRASSES

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Sea Thrift
<i>Artemisia pycnocephala</i>	Dune Sagebrush
<i>Bulbs: such as Brodiaea, Tritoleia,</i>	Harvest Brodiaea, Blue Dicks, Pretty
<i>Dichelostemma</i>	Face, Ithuriel's Spear etc.
<i>Chlorogalum pomeridianum</i>	Soap Plant
<i>Carex spp.</i>	various native sedges
<i>Dicentra Formosa</i>	Western Bleeding Heart
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California Poppy various varieties
<i>Ferns (all native species)</i>	Giant Chain Ferns, Wood & Sword Ferns
<i>Festuca californica &amp; F. rubra</i>	California Fescue and Red Fescue grasses
<i>Fragaria spp.</i>	all native species
<i>Iris (all native species)</i>	Douglas Iris and others
<i>Mimulus (all native species)</i>	Monkeyflower
<i>Monardella villosa &amp; others</i>	Coyote-Mint
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deergrass
<i>Nassella lepida &amp; N. pulchra</i>	Foothill & Purple Needlegrass
<i>Potentilla spp. (Cinquefoil)</i>	various native species
<i>Salvia clevelandii etc.</i>	Blue Sage & other native species
<i>Sisyrinchium spp.</i>	Blue-eyed Grass & other native species
<i>Tellima grandiflora</i>	Fringe Cups
<i>Zauschneria californica (Epilobium)</i>	California Fuchsia

Adapted from a list compiled by Mary Anderson by the Education Committee of the Sierra Foothills Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Sept. 2005

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