

DEER-RESISTANT NATIVE PLANTS

Lists of what plants are deer-resistant can vary and sometimes are in direct contradiction with one another. This is because deer food preferences can vary depending on what is available to eat at a particular time or location. After deer have browsed your garden or woodland forest, it is a challenge to select deer-resistant plants that will grow back in place of those that were eaten or destroyed, especially if you want to help preserve the Township's biodiversity by choosing **native plants**.



You can read about native plants for Schuylkill Township by reading the Schuylkill Township **Native Plant List, A Resident's Guide**. There are over 400 plants on the list but the list doesn't earmark plants that are considered deer-resistant. With the aid of Penn State Extension (Commercial & Consumer Horticulture), the University of Maryland (College of Agriculture and Natural Resources), Douglas Tallamy's book **Bringing Nature Home**, and other research reports and sources, we have developed a separate list of **deer-resistant plants native to Pennsylvania**. Deer-resistance is a relative term and will vary with the number of deer in an area, other food available, and time of year.

Additional controls such as fencing or repellents are recommended for areas with high deer populations. For example, when planting new trees or shrubs you may want to protect them temporarily with small cages to prevent the deer from "tasting" them before the plants have had a chance to grow. Even "deer resistant plants" may be nibbled on or eaten by young or starving deer. Another way to deter the deer in lieu of cages or fencing is deer repellents. Here is a list of four different products that have been proven to be fairly successful:

1. Deer Scram Professional – a non-toxic, granular repellent containing all natural ingredients. Used best with periphery application to protect garden areas.
2. Plantskydd Repellent – a pre-mixed liquid that contains built-in fertilizer to promote plant growth, environmentally safe ingredients, and long-term protection when sprayed directly on plants.
3. Repels-All Animal Repellent Granules – repels through smell, taste, and irritation of eyes and nose. Used best for periphery application, lasts up to 60 days, and safe around pets and children.
4. Deer Stopper – a highly effective but more expensive product that needs to be spray applied every 30 days. Works by smell and taste, will not wash off, and is pleasant to use, odor free.

Any one of these deer repellent products could be successful with consistency of application and timing.

Please remember **NATIVE PLANTS help create beautiful landscapes that provide wildlife habitat and reduce maintenance costs**. Just be sure to check for the correct "Botanical Name" on the plant label before you make your purchase. Do not trust plants that are being sold without the botanical name on the labels.