

## Likelihood of Deer Damage on Trees and Shrubs

This list is only provided for general guidance in selecting plants based on their deer damage potential. Keep in mind that deer are “dietary generalists” and will eat just about anything if they are curious or hungry enough. If you have comments about the classifications of any of the species listed here or suggested placement of species not yet listed, please contact the Conservation District at: (734) 761-6721 x 5.

### Trees

#### Low Chance of Deer Browse Damage

Ash species	<i>Fraxinus spp.</i>
Beech, American	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>
Birches	<i>Betula spp.</i>
Birch, Paper	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>
Birch, River	<i>Betula nigra</i>
Catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>
Chestnut	<i>Castanea dentata</i>
Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
Gum, Sweet	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
Hickory, Shagbark	<i>Carya ovata</i>
Ironwood	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
Larches	<i>Larix spp.</i>
Lilac, Tree	<i>Syringa reticulata</i>
Locust, Black	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
Locust, Honey	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>
Pine, Austrian	<i>Pinus nigra</i>
Pine, Red	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>
Pine, Scotch	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Redbud, Eastern	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>
Redcedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>
Spruce, Colorado	<i>Picea pungens</i>
Spruce, Norway	<i>Picea abies</i>
Spruce, White	<i>Picea glauca</i>
Sycamore	<i>Platanus sycamore</i>
Tuliptree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>

#### Moderate Chance of Deer Browse Damage

Basswood	<i>Tilia Americana</i>
Fir, Douglas	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesee</i>
Fir, White	<i>Abies concolor</i>
Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>
Horsechestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>
Maple, Red	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Maple, Silver	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>
Maple, Sugar	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
Oak, N. Red	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Oak, White	<i>Quercus alba</i>
Willows	<i>Salix spp.</i>

#### High Chance of Deer Browse Damage

Aspens	<i>Populus spp.</i>
Cedar, N. White (arborvitae)	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>
Cherry, Black	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
Cherry, Choke	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Cherry, Pin	<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>
Fir, Balsam	<i>Abies balsamea</i>
Maple, Norway	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
Pine, Eastern White	<i>Pinus strobus</i>

## Shrubs and Small Trees

### Low Chance of Deer Browse Damage

Barberry, Common	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>
Blueberries	<i>Vaccinium spp.</i>
Boxwood, Common	<i>Boxus sempervirens</i>
Butterflybush	<i>Buddleia davidii</i>
Dogwood, Flowering	<i>Cornus florida</i>
Dogwood, Kousa	<i>Cornus kousa</i>
Dogwood, Redosier	<i>Cornus sericea</i>
Hawthorns	<i>Crataegus spp.</i>
Hazelnut, American	<i>Corylus Americana</i>
Holly, American	<i>Ilex opaca</i>
Honeysuckle, American fly	<i>Lonicera canadensis</i>
Laurel, Mountain	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>
Lilac, Common	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>
Mountain ash, American	<i>Sorbus americana</i>
Mulberries	<i>Morus spp.</i>
Rosemary, Bog	<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>
Spireas	<i>Spirea spp.</i>
Sumacs	<i>Rhus spp.</i>

### Moderate Chance of Deer Browse Damage

American Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
Eastern Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>
Magnolias	<i>Magnolia spp.</i>
Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>
Rose, Rugosa	<i>Rosa Rugosa</i>
Roses	<i>Rosa spp.</i>
Serviceberries	<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>
Viburnums	<i>Viburnum spp.</i>
Willows	<i>Salix spp.</i>
Witchhazel, American	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>

### High Chance of Deer Browse Damage

Alders	<i>Alnus spp.</i>
Apples, Crabapples	<i>Malus spp.</i>
Blackberries	<i>Rubus spp.</i>
Cherries	<i>Prunus spp.</i>
Currants	<i>Ribes spp.</i>
Gooseberries	<i>Ribes spp.</i>
Maple, Mountain	<i>Acer spicatum</i>
Plums	<i>Prunus spp.</i>
Raspberries	<i>Rubus spp.</i>
Yew, Canadian	<i>Taxus canadensis</i>

#### References:

- Jauron, Richard, 1997. Resistance of Trees and Shrubs to Deer Damage [online]. *Horticultural & Home Pest News*. Available from: [www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/1993/5-26-1993/damdeer.html](http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/1993/5-26-1993/damdeer.html)
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- Swift, C.E. and M.K. Gross, 2004. *Preventing Deer Damage* [online]. Available from: [www.ext.colostate.edu/PUBS/NATRES/06520.html](http://www.ext.colostate.edu/PUBS/NATRES/06520.html)