

# GROUPS MAINTENANCE

WILLIAMSON COUNTY CENTER – 3151 SE INNER LOOP, GEORGETOWN, TX 78626 – (512) 943-3300

## *Deer-Resistant Landscape Plants*

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.

### 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.

### 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*) \*\* \*\*\*

### 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) \* \*\*

### PERENNIAL SUCCULENTS AND LILIES

Cactus (*Opuntia* spp.)  
any with stout spines \*\*

Hen and chickens (*Sempervivum* spp.) (spiney varieties)  
Yucca (*Yucca* spp.) \*\*  
Red Yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*)  
flowers eaten \*\*  
Sotol (*Dasyllirion* spp.) \* \*\*  
Sacahuista/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*) \*

### 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 leucantha*) \*  
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

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