# DEER-RESISTANT PLANTS FOR THE SIERRA FOOTHILLS (ZONE

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COMPILED BY UC Cooperative Extension Nevada County Master Gardeners EDITED BY Cindy Fake, Horticulture and Small Farms Advisor, Placer and Nevada Counties

**COMMON NAMES** 

Western Spice Bush

Bear's Breech

Oregon Grape

Monkey Flower

Spiderwort

Periwinkle

Sweet Violet

Italian Alder

Various factors can make a plant resistant to deer. Many of the most resistant plants are poisonous, some at all times, and others only at certain stages of growth. Palatability of nontoxic plants also varies with plant age or with the seasons.

Because of all these considerations, the following list of deer-resistant plans should be considered as a general guide only; deer will sometimes browse some of the plants listed--as they will sometimes avoid plants not listed. All young plants, shrubs, and trees should be protected from the deer until they get a chance to become somewhat established. **Bold** face indicates that the plant is particularly resistant. Few, if any, plant species are totally resistant to deer.

Balsam, Touch-Me-Not, Snapweed

Eulalia, Japanese Silver Grass

English, Western or Oregon Yew

California Laurel, California Bay,

Oregon Myrtle, Pepperwood **Everareen Huckleberry** 

#### PLANTS SUITABLE FOR ANY SUN EXPOSURE CONDITIONS (Full Sun, Partial Shade, and Little or No Direct Sunlight)

#### **BOTANICAL NAME**

Acanthus mollis Alnus cordata Calycanthus occidentalis Euphorbia spp.<sup>3</sup> Impatiens spp. Iris spp. Mahonia spp. Mimulus spp.

Miscanthus sinensis Taxus baccata. T. brevifolia Tradescantia virginiana Umbellularia californica

Vaccinium ovatum Vinca minor Viola odorata

#### Full Sun

(Full Sun all day or almost all day-except for an hour or two at beginning or end of a summer day.)

Abelia x grandiflora Abies spp.

Abutilon spp. Acacia spp. Acer negundo Achillea spp. Adolphia californica (rare) Aesculus californica

**Glossy Abelia** Fir Flowering Maple, Chinese Lantern Box Elder Yarrow Spine Shrub California Buckeye

Regular Moderate to Regular Moderate to Regular Little Moderate to Regular Little to Moderate Little Moderate



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#### WATER REQUIREMENTS<sup>2</sup>

Moderate to Regular Regular to Ample Regular Moderate to Regular Regular Vary by species. Little to Regular Vary by Species Moderate to Regular Moderate to Regular Regular to Ample Little to Regular

Moderate to Regular Little to Moderate Regular

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Nevada County

#### **BOTANICAL NAME**

Amaryllis belladonna Anchusa capensis (annual) Anthemis nobilis Arabis spp. Araucaria araucana, A. bidwillii Arbutus menziesii, A. unedo Arctotis stoechadifolia Armeria spp. Artemisia tridentata Arundo donax<sup>3</sup> Aster spp. (some) Atriplex semibaccata Baccharis pilularis Bellis perennis Bouteloua gracilis Briza maxima, B. media Brachyscome iberidifolia Buxus spp. Calendula officinalis Calliandra tweedii Callistemon viminalis Canna spp. Caragana spp. Carex spp. Carpenteria californica Carvopteris spp. Ceanothus 'Blue Jeans,' C. 'Julia 'Phelps,' C. 'Concha,' etc. Cedrus spp. Celosia cristata (Annual) Centaurea spp.<sup>3</sup>

Cerastium tomentosum Cercis occidentalis Chaenomeles spp. Chrysanthemum frutescens Chrysanthemum maximum *Cistus spp.*<sup>3</sup> (most) Cleome spinosa (annual) Colchicum spp. Cosmos spp. (annual) Cryptomeria japonica 'Elegans' Cytisus racemosus (C. x spacianus) Broom Clarkia amoena Clematis spp. Coreopsis spp. Cortaderia selloana<sup>3</sup> Cotinus coggygria Cotoneaster spp.<sup>3</sup> Crataegus spp.<sup>3</sup>

#### **COMMON NAMES**

- Belladonna Lily, Naked Lady Cape Forget-Me-Not Chamomile Rockcress Monkey Puzzle Tree, Bunya-Bunya Regular Madrona, Strawberry Tree African Daisy Thrift, Sea Pink Basin Sagebrush, Big Sagebrush Giant Reed
- Saltbush Covote Bush **English Daisy Mosquito Grass Quaking Grass** Swan River Daisy Boxwood Pot Marigold Brazilian or Trinidad Flame Bush Weeping Bottlebrush Canna Pea shrub Sedge **Bush Anemone** Bluebeard Wild Lilac
- Cedar
- Cockscomb Cornflower, Dusty Miller, Sweet Sultan, Bachelor's Button Snow-in-Summer Western Redbud Flowering Quince Marguerite, Paris Daisy Shasta Daisy Rockrose Spider Flower Meadow Saffron

Plum Cedar Godetia, Farewell-to-Spring

Pampas Grass Smoke Tree

Hawthorn

#### WATER REQUIREMENTS<sup>2</sup>

None Moderate to Regular Moderate to Regular Moderate Little to Regular Moderate Little to Moderate Little Regular to Ample Regular Little to None Little to Moderate Regular Little Little Regular Regular Moderate Little to Moderate Moderate to Regular Little Moderate Vary by species Little to Moderate Moderate Little or none Moderate Little Moderate Moderate to Regular Little Moderate to Regular Regular Regular l ittle Moderate Reg. during growth & bloom Moderate Regular Little Regular Regular Little to Moderate Little to Ample Moderate Little to Moderate Moderate

#### **BOTANICAL NAME**

Crocosmia spp.<sup>4</sup> Crocus spp. Cupressus spp. Cynara scolymus Dahlia spp. Datura spp. Delphinium spp. Diospyros virginiana Duchesnea indica Echinacea purpurea Echinocystis lobata Echium vulgare (annual) Eremurus spp. Eriogonum spp. Erodium reichardii Eschscholzia californica Euryops acraeus Fallopia baldschuanica Feijoa sellowiana Festuca glauca Ficus carica<sup>3</sup>, F. pumila Gelsemium sempervirens Forsythia ovata Fragaria chiloensis Fraxinus velutina Fremontodendron spp. Gaillardia spp. Geranium spp. Monarda spp. Myoporum laetum Ginkgo biloba Gymnocladus dioica Gypsophila paniculata, G. elegans Halimium lasianthum Helianthemum nummularium Helianthus spp. Helichrysum bracteatum Helictotrichon sempervirens Hemerocallis spp.<sup>4</sup> Ixia maculata Juglans nigra Kochia scoparia trichophylla Lagerstroemia indica Lantana montevidensis Larix decidua Lavandula spp. Lavatera spp. Leptodactylon californicum Limonium spp. Liquidambar styraciflua

#### **COMMON NAMES**

Cypress Artichoke

Thorn Apple Larkspur Persimmon Mock Strawberry **Purple Coneflower** Wild Cucumber Pride of Madeira Foxtail Lily, Desert Candle Wild Buckwheat Crane's bill California Poppy Silver Lace Vine **Pineapple Guava Common Blue Fescue** Fig Tree, Creeping Fig Carolina Jessamine Korean Forsythia **Ornamental** Strawberry Arizona Ash Flannel Bush Blanket Flower Cranesbill Bee Balm, Oswego Tea, Horsemint Regular to Ample Maidenhair Tree Kentucky Coffee Tree Baby's Breath (annual) Sunrose Sunrose Sunflower Strawflower Blue Oat Grass Daylily African Corn Lily Black Walnut Mexican Fire Bush (annual) Crape Myrtle Trailing Lantana European Larch Lavender Tree Mallow Prickly Phlox Statice, Sea Lavender

#### WATER REQUIREMENTS<sup>2</sup>

Regular Reg. during growth & bloom Little to Moderate Regular Regular Little (good drainage) Regular Regular Moderate Moderate to Regular Moderate Moderate Moderate Little to Moderate Regular Little to Regular Little to Regular Little to Regular Regular Moderate to Regular Regular Regular Moderate to Regular Regular Little None Moderate Regular Moderate Moderate to Regular Regular Moderate Little Moderate Regular to Ample Moderate Regular Regular Reg. during growth & bloom Moderate Regular Moderate Moderate Regular Moderate Regular Little (good drainage) Moderate Moderate to Regular

Sweet Gum

#### BOTANICAL NAME COMMON NAMES WATER REQUIREMENTS<sup>2</sup>

Lobularia maritima (annual) Lupinus spp. Lycoris squamigera Lysimachia nummularia Melia azedarach Mesembryanthemum crystallinum<sup>3</sup> Mirabilis jalapa Myrica californica Nolina parryi Papaver orientale Papaver rhoeas

Paulownia tomentosa Penstemon spp. Phlomis spp. Phlox subulata Pinus spp. Platanus racemosa Podocarpus macrophyllus Portulaca grandiflora (annual) Prunus caroliniana Pseudotsuga menziesii Pvracantha spp. Quercus spp. Raoulia australis Reseda odorata (annual) Rheum rhaponticum Rhus copallina, R. glabra Romneya coulteri Rosemarinus officinalis Rudbeckia hirta Ruta graveolens Salvia spp.<sup>3</sup> Santolina spp. Sanvitalia procumbens (annual) Satureja douglasii Scabiosa spp.<sup>4</sup> (some) Sedum spp. Senecio cineraria (perennials) Sequoiadendron giganteum Spartina pectinata Stipa gigantea Tagetes spp. Teucrium fruticans, T. chamaedrys Tithonia rotundifolia (annual) Trachycarpus fortunei Verbena spp.<sup>3</sup> Veronica spp. (ground cover) Watsonia spp. Wisteria spp.

Sweet Alyssum Lupine Spider Lilv Creeping Jenny, Moneywort Chinaberry Tree Ice Plant Four o'clock Pacific Wax Myrtle Nolina **Oriental Poppy** Flanders Field Poppy, Shirley Poppy **Empress Tree** Beard-tongue Jerusalem Sage Moss Pink Pine California Sycamore Yew Pine Rose Moss Carolina Laurel Cherry Douglas Fir Firethorn Oak Raoulia Mignonette **Ornamental Rhubarb** Shining Sumac, Smooth Sumac Matilija Poppy Rosemary Black-eyed Susan, Gloriosa Daisy Rue, Herb-of-Grace Sage Lavender Cotton **Creeping Zinnia** Yerba Buena **Pincushion Flower** Stone Crop **Dusty Miller** Giant Sequoia Prairie Cord Grass **Giant Feather Grass** Marigold Bush and Dwarf Germander Mexican Sunflower Windmill Palm Speedwell **Bugle Lily** 

Regular Vary by Species Reg. during growth & bloom Moderate to Regular Moderate Little to Moderate Little Moderate Little or no to Moderate Moderate to Regular Moderate to Regular Regular Little to Moderate Little to Moderate Moderate Little Moderate to Regular Regular Moderate to Regular Little to Moderate Little to Regular Moderate Little to Moderate Moderate Regular Moderate to Ample Little to Moderate Little to Moderate Little to Moderate Moderate to Regular Moderate to Regular Moderate to Regular Little to Moderate Moderate to Regular Little to Moderate Moderate to Regular Little to Moderate Little to Moderate Moderate Moderate to Ample Little to Moderate Regular Moderate Regular Regular Vary by species Vary by species Reg. during growth & bloom Little to Moderate

#### **BOTANICAL NAME**

Yucca spp. Zauschineria spp. Zinnia spp.

# FULL SUN OR PARTIAL SHADE

(Full sun all day to shade for half the day)

Acer macrophyllum Aconitum spp. Acorus gramineus 'Variegatus' Agapanthus africanus<sup>4</sup> Agave americana Ageratum houstonianum Ajuga spp. Albizia spp. Alcea rosea (Althaea rosea) Alopecurus pratensis 'Aureovariegatus' Alstroemeria spp. Aquilegia spp. Aralia spinosa Arctostaphylos spp. Aronia arbutifolia Arrhenatherum elatius bulbosum Aubrieta deltoidea Aurinia saxatilis Berberis spp. Bergenia spp. Buddleja davidii Calocedrus decurrens Campanula poscharskvana Campsis spp. Catalpa bignonioides Catharanthus roseus (Vinca rosea) Celtis spp. Chamaemelum nobile Chamaerops humilis Chasmanthium latifolium Choisya ternata Clarkia amoena Coleonema pulchrum Convolvulus cneorum Corokia cotoneaster Crocosmia crocosmiiflora Cyclamen spp. Daphne spp. Dendromecon spp. Deschampsia cespitosa Digitalis spp. Elaeagnus pungens Erica spp. Erigeron spp.

Heath

Fleabane

#### **COMMON NAMES**

Spanish Bayonet California Fuchsia

**Bigleaf Maple** Monkshood Japanese Sweet Flag Blue Lily-of-the-Nile Century Plant Floss Flower Carpet Bugle Silk Tree, Mimosa Hollyhock Yellow Foxtail Grass Peruvian Lily Columbine Hercules' Club, Devil's Walking Stick Manzanita Red Chokeberry **Bulbous Oat Grass** Common Aubrieta Basket-of-Gold Barberry Bergenia Butterfly Bush Incense Cedar Serbian Bellflower Trumpet Creeper, Trumpet Vine Common Catalpa, Indian Bean Madagascar Periwinkle Hackberry Chamomile Mediterranean Fan Palm Sea Oats. Bamboo Grass Mexican Orange Godetia, Farwell-to-Spring Pink Breath of Heaven, Pink Diosma **Bush Morning Glory** Little Prince Montbretia Shooting Star Bush or Tree Poppy **Tufted Hair Grass** Foxglove Silverberry

#### WATER REQUIREMENTS<sup>2</sup>

Little to Moderate Little to Moderate Regular

Moderate to Regular

Regular Ample Little to Regular Little to Moderate Regular Regular Varies by species Regular Regular Reg. during growth & bloom Regular Moderate to Regular Little to Moderate Moderate to Ample Regular Regular Regular Moderate to Regular Regular Moderate to Regular Little to Moderate Little to Moderate Moderate to Regular Moderate to Regular Moderate Moderate Moderate Moderate to Regular Regular Moderate Regular Regular Moderate Moderate Reg. during growth & bloom Redular Moderate Little Regular Moderate to Regular Little to Regular Regular Moderate

# FULL SUN OR PARTIAL SHADE

#### **BOTANICAL NAME**

Erysimum spp. Escallonia spp. Fatshedera lizei Galanthus elwesii Garrya elliptica Gerbera jamesonii Hedera helix Heteromeles arbutifolia Heuchera sanguinea Iberis spp. *llex spp.* (except thornless)<sup>3</sup> Jasminum spp. Juncus effusus Juniperus spp. Kerria japonica Kniphofia uvaria Kolkwitzia amabilis Laurus nobilis Leucojum aestivum Liriope and Ophiopogon Lithocarpus densiflora Lithodora diffusa Lobelia erinus (annual) Loropetalum chinense Lychnis coronia Magnolia spp. Molina caerulea altissima.'Variegata' Muscari spp. Nandina domestica Narcissus spp. Nepeta spp. Nierembergia repens Nigella damascena (annual) Oenothera spp. Oxalis oregana Panicum virgatum Pennisetum alopecuriodes Phalaris arundinacea picta Philadelphus coronarius Phormium tenax Picea spp. Podocarpus nivalis Polygonatum spp. Potentilla fruticosa Pratia pedunculata Ribes spp. Sagina subulata Sambucus spp. Satureja douglasii

#### **COMMON NAMES**

Wallflower

**Botanical Wonder** Giant Snowdrop Coast Silktassel African or Transvaal Daisy English Ivy Toyon, Christmas Berry, California Holly Coral Bells, Alum Root Candytuft Holly Jasmine Soft Rush Juniper Japanese Rose Red Hot Poker, Torch Lily **Beauty Bush** Sweet Bay, Grecian Laurel Summer Snowflake Lily Turf Tanbark Oak

Lobelia

Crown-Pink, Rose Campion

**Purple Moor Grass** Grape Hyacinth Heavenly Bamboo, Sacred Bamboo Little to Regular Narcissus, Daffodil, Jonquil Catnip, Catmint White Cup Flower Love-in-a-Mist Evening Primrose, Sundrops Redwood Sorrel, Oregon Oxalis Switch Grass Fountain Grass Ribbon Grass, Gardener's Garters Sweet Mock Orange New Zealand Flax Spruce Alpine Totara Solomon's Seal Cinquefoil Blue Star Creeper Currant, Gooseberry Irish Moss, Scotch Moss Elderberry Yerba Buena

#### WATER REQUIREMENTS<sup>2</sup>

Vary by species Regular Regular Regular Moderate Regular Moderate to Regular Moderate Moderate to Regular Regular Regular Moderate to Regular Ample Little to Regular Moderate to Regular Moderate to Regular Regular Moderate Regular Regular Little to Moderate Moderate Little Regular Little to Moderate Regular Regular to Ample Regular Reg.during growth & bloom Moderate Regular Regular Little to moderate Regular Little to Ample Moderate to Regular Regular Moderate to Regular Little to Regular Little to Moderate Regular Regular Moderate to Regular Regular Vary by Species Regular Regular Regular

# FULL SUN OR PARTIAL SHADE

#### **BOTANICAL NAME**

Scilla spp. Sedum spp. (some) Sequoia sempervirens Sisyrinchium spp. Sorbus aucuparia Spiraea spp. Stachys byzantina Symphoricarpos albus Svringa vulgaris Tecomarua capensis Thuja spp. Thymus spp. Thunbergia alata (as an annual) Trachelospermum jasminoides Trachycarpus fortunei Valeriana spp. Viburnum spp.

#### COMMON NAMES

Squill, Bluebell Stonecrop Redwood, Coast Redwood **Blue-eyed Grass** European Mountain Ash Bridal Wreath Lamb's Ear **Common Snowberry** Common Lilac Cape Honeysuckle Arborvitae Thyme Black-Eyed Susan Vine Star Jasmine, Confederate Jasmine Regular Windmill Palm Valerian, Garden Heliotrope Chinese Snowball, Laurustinus

#### WATER REQUIREMENTS<sup>2</sup>

Reg. during growth & bloom Little to Moderate Moderate to Regular Vary by species Moderate to Regular Moderate to Regular Moderate Little to Moderate Regular Little to Moderate Moderate to Regular Moderate Regular Regular Regular Regular

#### PARTIAL SHADE

(Shade for half the day or at least 3 hours during the hottest part of the day)

Abies spp. Abutilon spp.

- Acer circinatum Acer negundo Acer palmatum Anemone japonica<sup>4</sup> Astilbe spp. Begonia spp. (as annuals) Fritillaria imperialis Gaultheria shallon Gelsemium sempervirens Grevillea 'Noellii' Milium effusum 'Aureum' Myosotis scorpioides Origanum spp. Pieris spp. Phlox subulata Rheum rhaponticum Rhododendron spp. (except Azalea-leaved varieties) Vancouveria planipetala
- Fir Flowering Maple, Chinese Bellflower, Chinese Lantern Vine Maple Box Elder Japanese Maple Japanese Anemone False Spiraea, Meadow Sweet Begonia Crown Imperial Salal, Lemon Leaf Carolina Jessamine

Bowles' Golden Grass Forget-Me-Not Oregano, Marjoram Mountain Pieris, Chinese Pieris Moss Pink **Ornamental Rhubarb** Inside-Out Flower

# PARTIAL SHADE OR LITTLE DIRECT SUNLIGHT

Adiatum spp. Dicentra spectabilis Drvopteris spp. Duchesnea indica Galium odoratum Helleborus spp.

Maidenhair Fern **Common Bleeding Heart** Wood Fern Indian Mock Strawberry Sweet Woodruff Christmas Rose, Lenten Rose, Corsican or Bear's-Foot Hellebore Moderate to Regular Moderate to Regular

Moderate to Regular Moderate to Regular Moderate to Regular Regular Regular Regular Regular Regular Regular Moderate Regular to Ample Regular Little to Moderate Regular Regular Moderate to Ample Regular to Ample Moderate to Regular

Ample Regular Regular Moderate Regular to Ample Vary by species.

# PARTIAL SHADE OR LITTLE DIRECT SUNLIGHT

#### BOTANICAL NAME COMMON NAMES WATER REQUIREMENTS<sup>2</sup>

Lamium spp. Pachysandra terminalis Sarcococca hookerana humilis Saxifraga spp. Tellima grandiflora Trillium spp. Dead Nettle Japanese Spurge Sweet Box Strawberry Geranium Fringe Cup Wake Robin Regular Regular Moderate to Regular Regular Regular Regular

# LITTLE OR NO DIRECT SUNLIGHT

Cynoglossum grande

Western Hound's Tongue

No summer water

### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Sunset Western Garden Book. Typical winter lows: 23° to 9°F. Record Lows 15° to -1°F. Optimal growing season May through first week of October.

<sup>2</sup> Water requirements for established plants:

Little water = Drought Tolerant. Moderate water = May mean soaking every 2 or 3 weeks. Regular moisture = Soil should not be too wet or too dry. Well-drained soil. Ample moisture = Bogs, aquatic plants, streambed natives.

<sup>3</sup> Species appearing on CalEPPC List of Exotic Pest Plants of Greatest Ecological Concern in California.

Arundo donax (Giant Reed) Centaurea calcitrapa (Purple Starthistle) C. maculosa (Spotted Knap Weed) C. melitensis (Malta Starthistle) C. solstitialis (Yellow Starthistle) Cistus landifer (Gum Cistus) Cotoneaster pannosus, C. lacteus Cortaderia selloana (Pampas Grass) *Crataegus monogyna* (Hawthorn) *Euphorbia lathyrus* (Gopher Purge) *Ficus carica* (Fig Tree) *Ilex aquifolium* (Holly) *Mesembryanthemum crystallinum* (Ice Plant) *Salvia aethiopis* (Mediterranean Sage) *Verbena bonariensis, V. litoralis* (Tall Vervain)

<sup>4</sup> Deer will eat the blossoms.

#### References

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