

MULE DEER FEEDING HABITS VARY WITH THE CHANGING SEASONS

Mule deer eating habits are focused on one physiological goal, to build up enough fat to survive the next winter. From early spring through summer and in to autumn deer feed constantly, building up those necessary fat reserves. This accumulation of fat and the deer's ability to conserve energy at the proper time allows them to survive the winter.



Photo by: John Humphrey
Gardnerville

FEEDING DEER...IT'S ILLEGAL!

- Do not feed deer or provide them with mineral licks.
- Offering deer inappropriate food is harmful and potentially lethal.
- Feeding deer causes habituation to human presence.
- Deer enticed by food may not migrate.
- Unnaturally concentrating deer can cause transmission of disease.
- Attracting deer to your property draws predators, like mountain lions and coyotes that may prey on pets.
- Deer in neighborhoods cause an increase in deer/vehicle collisions, which never ends well for the deer.

MULE DEER ARE WILD, NOT PETS OR LIVESTOCK

Mule deer are among the most watchable Nevada wildlife, and can generally be seen throughout the state during all seasons of the year. Remember: always observe deer from a safe distance, they are here to stay, learn to respect them. Deer have predators and can behave aggressively. **It is against the law to feed game mammals (NRS 501.382).**

BE WILD AWARE-DON'T FEED DEER!

If you have an encounter with aggressive wildlife, please alert the sheriff's office or call the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

Carson City Sheriff (775) 887-2014
Douglas County Sherriff (775) 782-5126
Washoe County Sherriff: (775) 785-9276
Nevada Department of Wildlife (775) 688-1331

For questions, or comments please contact the Carson City Wildlife Advisory Board:
cceo@carson.org



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension



This publication has been adapted from:



DEER ARE ACTIVE IN THIS AREA

Please Do Not
Feed Deer

Photo by: John Humphrey
Gardnerville

SHARE THE WILD Preventing Deer Damage On Your Property

- Protect your home and landscaping with a 7ft fence. Lower fences may reduce but not eliminate damage. Check County/City codes to make sure you're in compliance.
- Cover window wells with grates to prevent deer and other wildlife from becoming trapped.
- Wrap highly susceptible plants with heavy burlap or wire.
- Avoid using ornamental plants. Instead, use native plants that can withstand some browsing by deer.
- Some plants are more susceptible to damage than others. See the table presented below for other options.



Photo by: University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension

DEER ARE WILD ANIMALS Keep Your Distance

- Always give deer plenty of space.
- Do not corner deer, especially fawns.
- It is against the law to allow your dogs to chase deer.
- Males can be aggressive during the fall breeding season, which usually occurs in November.
- During fawning season, usually mid-May to mid-June females can be aggressive towards people or dogs.
- If you see a fawn by itself, keep your distance and leave the animal alone, the mother is usually close by.
- If a deer knocks you down, curl into a ball, protect your head and lie still until it retreats.

ROAD SAFETY

- Pay attention to wildlife crossing signs and slow down.
- Deer are most likely to be seen at dawn and dusk during spring and winter months.
- Deer travel in herds, if you see one there are often more to come.

BE WILD AWARE Mule Deer Facts

- Mule deer are found throughout Nevada in many habitats including neighborhoods and yards.
- The mule deer gets its name from its mule-like ears.
- Only the males, or bucks, have antlers, which are shed every year.
- Mule deer migrate annually from high mountains, to lower elevations in the winter, to avoid deep snow and to find food and shelter.
- They are surprisingly quick and powerful animals.
- Mule deer are very popular game animals- help keep them wild and healthy!

TEACH YOUR FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS ABOUT DEER CONFLICT PREVENTION

Photo by: Jeremy Drew
Carson City



Photo by: John Valley
Carson City

| Instead of: | Plant this: |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Crocus | Daffodil |
| Tulips | Iris or Peony |
| Hardy geranium | Lavender |
| Hybrid roses | Spirea |
| Apple tree | Ornamental pear |

For a complete list of plants see publication:
Deer-Resistant Plants for Northern Nevada
<http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ho/2014/fs1406.pdf>