

HOLIDAY VILLAGE EAST GARDENING GUIDE



FOR NATURAL BEAUTY and
THE ENVIRONMENT

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HELPFUL WEBSITES

<https://savvygardening.com/category/garden-advice-tips/>

<https://www.petittigardencenter.com/12-deer-resistant-perennials/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCR-x5nrAMc>

<https://www.jerseyyards.org>

http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php%3Fid_plant%3Dcoti3&ved=2ahUKEwjNpfzI49SSAxWhEVkFHbKINUAQFnoECBkQAQ&usg=AOvVaw22bY19 W5X-1SiG q-RgoR

<https://www.bhg.com/gardening/pests/animal/deer-resistant-shade-plants>

WWW.almanac.com/plant

<https://extension.umn.edu/flowers/>

<https://powerofplants.com/2019/01/plant-of-the-month-48/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch>

OR.

<https://npsnj.org>

PERENIAL FLOWERS



Bloom Season: June – September
Height: 36” - 48” Sunlight
requirements: Partial to Full Sun

Purple Coneflowers is a popular plant in native and ornamental gardens alike. Many color and flower morphs are now available, but our plants are the offspring of native prairie inhabitants. This makes them adapted to tough conditions and better for pollinators than cultivars. Spent flowers turn black with seeds, adding winter interest and feeding goldfinches who relish the free meal. Echinacea happily spreads by seed, so remove seedlings in the spring to keep it in check. Purple coneflowers **are considered deer-resistant**,

<https://www.myhomepark.com/glossary/purple-coneflower>



Common Milkweed known for its role in the lifecycle of monarch butterflies, is a robust perennial that produces dense clusters of pink, sweetly-scented flowers. These blooms not only attract monarchs but also a variety of other pollinators. Post-bloom, the flowers give way to large, spindle-shaped seed pods that are decorative in their own right. Growing vigorously in full sun, this plant is an excellent choice for naturalized areas or wildflower meadows where it can spread and establish a strong presence.

Common milkweed is generally considered deer-resistant Bloom Season: July – September. Sunlight requirements: Partial to Full Sun



<https://plantaddicts.com/is-milkweed>

Blackeye Susans are drought tolerant and hardy, though good air circulation helps prevent powdery mildew, especially in hot, humid areas. They are easy to establish, preferring deep but infrequent watering.

Black eyed Susans attract pollinators, prefer eight to ten hours of sunlight and benefit from deadheading. They make an excellent long lasting cut flower.

Bloom Season : Early summer through fall

Deer Resistant: Yes

<https://naturehills.com/collections/black-eyed-susan>



Hydrangeas are popular flowering shrubs known for their large, showy flower clusters ([corymbs](#)) that can change color (blue/pink) based on soil [pH](#), blooming in shades of blue, pink, purple, white, and green, and coming in forms like [mophead](#), [lacecap](#), and [panicle](#), offering vibrant additions to gardens with varying sun/shade needs and generally requiring consistent moisture and well-drained soil. **Hydrangeas are not deer resistant.**

Prune in spring but do your research as different variety require different care.

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=Hydrangea>



Peonies are incredibly long-lived, hardy herbaceous **perennials** that bloom in spring, often lasting for over 50 years. Thriving in USDA Zones 3-8, they require full sun (6+ hours), well-drained, nutrient-rich soil, and 3 feet of space. Key tips include planting in fall, keeping "eyes" 1-2 inches deep, and using supports for heavy blooms. Peonies are considered highly **deer-resistant** and are rarely damaged by deer due to their, scent, and taste

<https://>

www.americanmeadows.com/



Shasta daisies (*Leucanthemum × superbum*) thrive in full sun and well-drained soil, blooming in summer. They require moderate water, especially in the first year, and benefit from regular deadheading to prolong blooms. Divide clumps every 2–3 years in spring or fall to maintain vigor and cut back to 3 inches in late fall. Shasta daisies are generally **considered deer-resistant** due to their bitter taste, rough leaf texture, and scent.

Watering: Provide an average amount of water. Soggy soil can lead to root rot. Shasta daisy is moderately drought tolerant once established. Water more frequently during prolonged heat or dry spells.

Fertilizing: In spring, spread a thin layer of compost around the base of plants or apply a [slow-release all-purpose fertilizer](#). Alternatively, use a [water-soluble fertilizer](#) monthly during the spring and summer.

<https://www.provenwinners.com/learn/how-plant/shasta-daisy>



Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) is a drought-tolerant perennial known for its silvery-gray foliage and airy spikes of lavender-blue flowers, blooming from mid-summer into fall. Native to Central Asia, it thrives in full sun and well-drained soil, making it ideal for xeriscaping, borders, and containers, and it attracts pollinators like bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. It's a low-maintenance plant that is also **deer and rabbit resistant**.

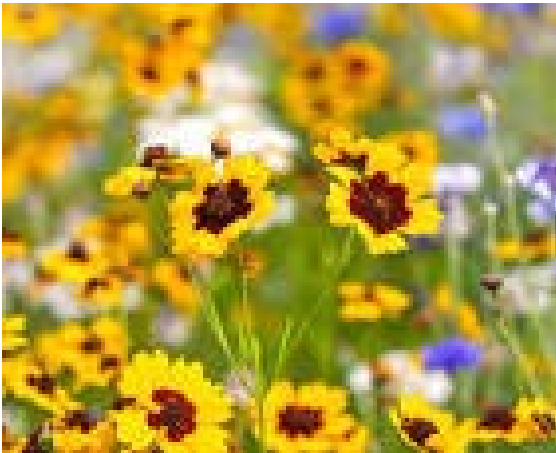
<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=russian+sage>



Lavendar is a top-performing, highly fragrant cultivar renowned for its **extreme heat, humidity, and cold tolerance (Zones 5–9)**. It features silvery-green foliage and violet-blue summer blooms, forming a dense, disease-resistant mound. Ideal for hedging, containers, and drying, it requires full sun and

well-drained soil. Lavender is widely considered **deer-resistant** due to its strong fragrance and aromatic oils.

<https://www.highcountrygardens.com/>



Coreopsis (Tickseed) includes both perennials and annuals, with many popular varieties living for multiple years (zones 4-9), blooming from summer to fall and regrowing each spring, while true annual types complete their life cycle in one season, though some perennials might act as annuals in colder zones. The key is checking the specific plant's hardiness zone and type when purchasing, as perennials offer long-term color, and annuals provide early-season vibrancy.

Plant coreopsis in a spot with full sun (6+ hours daily) and well-draining soil, as they thrive in sunny locations but hate wet feet (poor drainage). They tolerate poor, sandy, or rocky soils but benefit from compost, and are great for wildflower gardens, borders, and containers where they'll get plenty of light and good drainage, avoiding waterlogged spots. Coreopsis is widely considered a reliable, **deer-resistant perennial**.

<https://www.provenwinners.com/learn/how-to/coreopsis>



Dianthus known for fragrant, fringed blooms in pink, white, and red, are versatile **annuals, biennials, and perennials thriving in full sun (6+ hours) and well-drained, neutral-to-alkaline soil**. They grow 4–36 inches tall, bloom spring through fall with deadheading, and require moderate water, making them ideal for borders and containers.

Dianthus is considered **deer resistant** often classified by researchers as "seldom severely damaged" due to their strong, spicy scent and tough, sometimes fuzzy texture.

<https://www.provenwinners.com/plants/dianthus>



Daylilies are popular, low-maintenance perennials known for vibrant, trumpet-shaped blooms that last only one day but appear in succession for weeks. Thriving in full sun, they adapt to many soils, resist drought/pests, and come in countless colors, making them ideal for borders and erosion control. **Light:** Best in full sun (6+ hours), but dark varieties may appreciate afternoon shade. Daylilies are **generally NOT considered deer-resistant**; in fact, they are often a favorite, high-preference food source for deer.

<https://oakesdaylilies.com/>



Calla lilies (*Zantedeschia*) are elegant, trumpet-shaped flowers growing from rhizomes, known for their beauty in gardens and bouquets, thriving in sunny spots with moist soil and coming in white, yellow, pink, orange, and maroon. They are tender perennials, often grown as annuals in cooler zones or overwintered indoor. Calla Lillies are generally **considered deer resistant**. Full sun to partial shade (more shade in hot climates). Rich, moist, well-drained soil, or a good potting mix for containers.

<https://www.dutchbulbs.com/collections/deer-resistant-calla-lilies>



Lily of the Valley thrives in partial to full shade, moist, well-drained soil rich in organic matter, and cool temperatures, making it an excellent woodland or groundcover plant that spreads vigorously. It needs consistent moisture, especially when establishing, and tolerates various soils but prefers rich, well-draining conditions; ensure it gets cool winter dormancy for best flowering. Lily of the Valley is generally considered **highly deer-resistant**.

<https://www.southernliving.com/garden/lily-of-the-valley>



Begonias are popular, versatile, and easy-to-grow plants cultivated for their vibrant flowers or striking, textured foliage. Ideal for shade, they thrive in well-drained soil, needing regular moisture but not waterlogging. Key types include [wax](#), [tuberous](#), [cane](#) (Angel Wing), and [rhizomatous](#) (Rex). They are excellent for beds, containers, and indoor, year-round enjoyment. **Begonias are generally considered deer resistant**

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=Begonias>

ANNUALS



Gerbera daisies are popular, colorful “tender perennials” (often grown as annuals) that thrive in full sun to partial shade, requiring well-draining soil, consistent moisture, and regular deadheading to produce blooms from spring to fall. They are ideal for containers, preferring cool nights and moderate temperatures, and are **generally resistant to deer and rabbits**. Regular deadheading (removing spent flowers) encourages continuous blooming. **Planting:** Ensure the crown (where stems meet roots) sits at or slightly above the soil level to prevent rot.

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/gerbera-daisy>



Alyssum Fragrant, vigorous, cold tolerant, all-summer blooming plants that require no special care aren't exactly a dime a dozen, but these sweet alyssums fill the bill. Plant them in part sun to sun and don't let them get too dry, and you'll be rewarded with a fabulous display of fragrant blossoms for months on end. Standing just 4 to 8 inches tall but growing up to 4 feet across, they will cover a lot of ground and trail spectacularly from hanging baskets, mono containers and combination

planters. Alyssum **exceptionally deer-resistant**.

<https://www.calloways.com/alyssum/>



Salvia: Add color to your garden with these easy, trouble-free annual salvia flowers. They are compact, richly colored and will bloom all season without stopping. Once established in a pot or the garden, they are amazingly tough. Salvia is highly deer resistant. They thrive in full sun and well-drained soil, blooming in shades of purple, blue, red, pink, and white from late spring to fall, often reaching 18 inches to 5 feet tall.

<https://www.provenwinners.com/plants>



Vinca is a versatile plant and **can grow well in both sun and shade, although it prefers partial shade.** It can tolerate full sun in cooler climates, but in hot summer areas, it prefers shade. It can grow in a range of soil types, including sandy, loamy, or clay soils, as long as the soil is well-drained. Vinca ([Catharanthus roseus](#), also known as Madagascar periwinkle) is **highly deer-resistant**, rated as "rarely damaged" by Rutgers, because its milky sap and sweet fragrance deter deer and rabbits. This hardy annual thrives in heat and drought, making it

a great choice for summer color in areas with deer, but note that while resistant, no plant is entirely deer-proof in severe conditions.

<https://extension.umn.edu/flowers/vinca>



Marigolds are a popular, deer resistant annual. Available in many colors, shapes and sizes, marigold is a great choice for full sun. African, or American, marigold does well in full sun, which encourages blooms, but appreciates light afternoon shade; it dislikes full shade. It tolerates clay and dry soil but prefers evenly moist, well-drained soil. It grows best from seed started indoors 6 to 8 weeks before the last frost date. Plants range from 1 to 4 feet high and 1 to 2 feet wide. Tall varieties may need staking, or

plant them in sites protected from strong wind or heavy rain to minimize the need for stem support. Spent flowers should be promptly deadheaded, as flower heads are heavy and can cause stems to snap. You can pinch back stems on young plants to promote bushy growth. Seed is the best propagation method. African marigold has a long bloom season with fragrant, colorful, showy flowers that attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Leaves are also fragrant when brushed or crushed. **This plant is seldom damaged by deer.**

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/tagetes/>



Petunias need full sun, or they will become spindly. They don't tend to flower well in shade. The soil should drain well and not stay overly wet, especially in containers. It should also be moderately fertile to promote the best growth. Amend poor soil with [finished compost](#) prior to planting. Plant young petunias outdoors after your last spring frost date but keep a close eye on the weather forecast and protect young plants from late frosts. **Petunias are NOT deer resistant** and in fact are high moisture

snack for deer.

<https://www.almanac.com/plant/petunias>



Geraniums,

To care for geraniums give them full sun (6+ hrs), water deeply when the top inch of soil is dry (not soggy), and fertilize every few weeks with a balanced feed, especially in pots.

Regularly [deadhead](#) spent blooms to encourage more flowers and prune leggy stems to keep plants bushy, ensuring well-draining soil and pots with drainage holes to prevent root rot.

Geraniums, particularly hardy types (Cranesbill) and scented *Pelargoniums*, are **generally considered deer-resistant**

<https://www.almanac.com/plant/geraniums>



Impatiens thrive in moist, well-drained soil and prefer partial to full shade, ideally with morning sun and afternoon shade, as they wilt in intense, direct sun. Consistent moisture is key, requiring regular watering, especially in containers, and feeding with a balanced liquid fertilizer every few weeks to encourage blooms.

Impatiens are **NOT considered deer-resistant**

<https://www.google.com/search?=impatiens+flower>



Zinnias are fast-growing, heat-loving annuals easily grown from seed, best planted in full sun after the last spring frost. They thrive in well-drained soil, requiring 6–8 hours of sunlight, regular watering at the base to avoid mildew, and consistent deadheading. Heights range from dwarf 6-inch varieties to over 3-foot tall, vibrant cut flowers that attract pollinators. Zinnias are **generally considered deer-resistant** due to their rough texture and bitter taste.

<https://www.provenwinners.com/learn/deer-resistant-annuals>



Pansies thrive in cool weather (40-70°F) with full to partial sun, ideally morning sun to avoid intense afternoon heat, in rich, moist, well-drained, slightly acidic soil (pH 5.4-6.2), requiring consistent moisture but not soggy roots. Proper spacing (7-12 inches apart) and good airflow prevent fungal issues, while feeding them monthly keeps them blooming, especially in containers. Pansies are **not deer resistant**. To keep pansies blooming, consistently deadhead spent flowers and their seed pods to encourage new growth.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=+pansies>

ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS



Japanese holly (*Ilex crenata*) is widely considered **deer resistant**, not completely deer-proof, meaning deer usually avoid its tough, leathery leaves, making it a good choice for landscapes, but severe hunger can cause them to nibble, so barriers are recommended in high-deer areas.

Japanese Holly is not a native plant and it does best in **Full Sun**

www.google.com/search

Bloom season in New Jersey, typically occurring in **late spring to early summer (May–June)**. While they are primarily grown for their evergreen foliage

and dense, shrub-like structure, they produce small, inconspicuous white or greenish-white flowers that attract pollinators.

Height: Japanese holly (*Ilex crenata*) in New Jersey varies greatly by cultivar, but generally grows from **3 to 10 feet tall and 3 to 8 feet wide**



A **False Holly** is a dense ([Osmanthus heterophyllus](#)), evergreen shrub in the olive family, known for its spiny, holly-like leaves and incredibly fragrant, tiny white flowers that bloom in fall, offering year-round interest with slow growth, deer resistance, and adaptability to sun/shade and various soils, making it great for hedges or accent plantings. Varieties like 'Goshiki' feature colorful variegated foliage, adding gold, cream, and green to landscapes, though it's

important to note **it's not a native plant.**

Flowers: Small, white, and very fragrant in late fall/early winter, often perfume a large area.

Size: Can become a large shrub or small tree, reaching 10-20 feet, but is easily pruned.

Growth: Slow to moderate growth rate, dense habit. Full sun to partial shade

Deer Resistance: Highly resistant to browsing by deer.



Mountain Laurel is a beautiful evergreen shrub that thrives in acidic, well-drained soils under the canopy of larger trees in the eastern United States. Mountain Laurel is so ubiquitous and beautiful as to be the state flower of both Connecticut and Pennsylvania. This hardy shrub typically grows 5 to 15 feet tall, with a similar spread, very gradually forming dense thickets of glossy, dark green leaves. In late spring to early summer, it produces spectacular clusters of pink or white flowers, each intricately shaped like a small cup or bowl with delicate stamens.

<https://www.myhomepark.com/glossary/mountain-laurel>



New Jersey Tea is a resilient and attractive native shrub that features clusters of tiny, fragrant white flowers, which create a striking contrast against its dark green foliage. The plant's roots go deep, allowing it to thrive in dry, challenging conditions and making it an excellent choice for erosion control. It's particularly appealing in a native plant garden or as part of a low-water landscape, where its ability to attract butterflies and beneficial insects adds ecological value. Partial to full sun. Blooms July – August.

<https://www.myhomepark.com/glossary/new-jersey-tea>

Weigela are low-maintenance, hardy deciduous shrubs that thrive in full sun (5+ hours) and well-drained, moist soil. Key care includes watering weekly during the first year, applying slow-release fertilizer in early spring, and pruning immediately after their spring/summer bloom to encourage reblooming and maintain shape. They are **generally deer-resistant** and suitable for zones 4-8. Regular growth—branches that look old and woody—should be trimmed after two years, as the weigela is constantly growing and looks better with new, young wood. It's important to perpetuate healthy growth with weigelas. Keep your weigela in good shape, both visually and physically.

<https://www.thespruce.com/weigela-bushes-care-facts>



Heavenly Bamboo This plant flowers in the late spring and has ornamental fruits in the fall that persist through the winter months. The new growth is reddish. The plant can be pruned, but keep in mind that next season's blossoms and fruit will appear on new growth. The leaves and berries may be toxic to humans, and pets. Heavenly bamboo ([Nandina domestica](#)) is generally considered **highly deer-resistant** due to its bitter taste and toxic, cyanogenic compounds in its leaves and berries.

<https://plantaddicts.com/>



Goldencup St. John's Wort is a hardy, semi-evergreen shrub that thrives in full sun to partial shade and well-drained soil. It is drought-

tolerant once established and requires pruning in early spring to maintain shape and promote blooms on new growth. Full sun to light shade is recommended. Best flowering occurs in full sun.

Requires regular watering during the first growing season to establish a root system; drought-tolerant afterward. Cut back hard in early spring to encourage fresh, bushy growth.

Highly deer resistant.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=is+goldencup+st.+johnwort>



Japanese Spirea

Spiraea japonica is one of several *Spiraea* shrubs with alternate, simple leaves, on wiry, freely branching, erect stems. The stems are brown to reddish-brown, round in cross-section and sometimes hairy. The shrub reaches 1.2 m to almost 2 m in height and about the same in width. Thrives in full sun, requires well-drained soil, and is hardy in Zones 4-8. Japanese Spirea (*Spiraea japonica*) is generally **considered a good, deer-resistant choice for NJ landscapes,**

<https://myplantin.com/plant/7014>



Forsythia is a genus of 11 accepted species of flowering, deciduous, perennial shrubs native to China, Japan, and southeast Europe. Forsythia is easy to grow and does best in loose, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Plants in full sun will produce more flowers earlier in the spring than plants in partial shade. Forsythia is a forgiving plant and tolerates average to poor garden soils, urban conditions, and drought. Forsythia can tend to grow wildly, but it can be pruned to keep

the shrub's growth under control. Flowers appear on old growth, so pruning should be done immediately after spring flowering. **Forsythia is deer resistant.**

[https://www.google.com/url?
sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://
www.provenwinners.com/learn/deer-resistant](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.provenwinners.com/learn/deer-resistant)



Barberry Japanese barberry is banned from sale in New Jersey due to its invasive habit. However newer, sterile cultivars of Japanese barberry, like 'Crimson Cutie' and 'Sunjoy Mini Maroon' are legal (because they're sterile, they can't reproduce.)

Barberry rarely require much in the way of maintenance. They can be lightly trimmed to shape in early spring; avoid cutting into any thick, woody stems, as the plant will recover slowly from such pruning. It is a

deciduous shrub. Before purchasing, check the details for that particular plant/cultivar online. Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) is **highly deer-resistant** due to its sharp thorns and bitter taste,

[https://www.google.com/url?
sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://ipm.cahnr.uconn.edu/
invasive_plants_japanese_barberry](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://ipm.cahnr.uconn.edu/invasive_plants_japanese_barberry)



Boxwood (Buxus)

There are about 150 commercially available species and cultivars of boxwoods with a large variability in hardiness, shape and leaf characteristics. Boxwoods are best known for their low maintenance, dense growth habit and **deer resistance** making them a favorite shrub for hedges, topiary and bonsai. Boxwoods are easy to grow, take little maintenance, and are very tolerant of a range of soil types with optimal

pH in the 5.5-7.2 range. They prefer partial or dappled shade but can tolerate full sun. While tolerant of some drought, boxwoods should be mulched and irrigated during long dry periods particularly in the first year to prevent stress that may make them susceptible to disease.

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://gardeningsimplifiedonair.com/deer-resistant>



Lily of the Valley Bush Japanese pieris (aka) is a woody, broadleaf evergreen shrub in the heath family (Ericaceae). Japanese pieris has an upright, rounded, and dense habit and slowly matures to a height of 8 to 10 feet and a width of 6 to 8 feet, though there are dwarf cultivars. It is noted for its emerging coppery red leaves, fragrant white urn-shaped flowers that bloom in the spring, and multi-season interest. The shrub does tolerate pruning, but keep in mind that next season's blossoms will appear on old growth. It is considered **highly deer-resistant**.

www.provenwinners.com/plants/pieris/interstella-lily-valley-shrub-pieris-japonica



Oregon Grape Holly (Mahonia) Oregon grape (Mahonia aquifolium) is a hardy, evergreen shrub native to western North America, known for its holly-like, spiny leaves that turn bronze or purple in winter, bright yellow spring flowers, and clusters of blue-black berries that resemble grapes. It's drought-tolerant, thrives in partial shade, and provides food and shelter for wildlife, with edible but tart berries used for jellies and traditional medicine. Oregon Grape ([Mahonia](#))

[*aquifolium*](#)) is a highly reliable, drought-tolerant, and evergreen shrub that is generally ignored by deer.

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES



Pink Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*) care involves planting in full sun and well-drained soil, with initial watering to establish roots, then infrequent watering as it's very drought-tolerant; prune dead foliage in late winter/early spring to 6-8 inches for new growth, fertilize lightly only if needed, and divide clumps every few years to maintain vigor.

Deer Resistant. YES

<https://www.fast-growing-trees.com/products/pink-muhly>



'Karl Foerster' Feather Reed Grass

creates a dramatic garden accent, with tall, slender, vertical growth and feathery plumes of shifting bronze color that stay in place year-round. An early bloomer, 'Karl Foerster' is a cool season grass that grows most rapidly in the spring season and produces notably early blooms. It is a clump-forming decorative grass, with an upward architectural growth habit, making it a dramatic specimen plant in garden or meadow. Torch-like plumes are widely used

in dried flower arrangements. This sterile variety does not self-sow, **is deer resistant**, and notably cold hardy.

<https://www.americanmeadows.com/>



To care for **Blue Fescue**, plant in full sun and well-drained soil, as it hates wet feet, and water regularly only until established; then it's drought-tolerant. Annually, [comb out old growth](#) or trim back in late winter/early spring to 3-4 inches to encourage new growth and prevent the center from dying out. Divide clumps every 2-3 years to maintain vigor. Blue fescue (*Festuca glauca*), particularly popular cultivars like 'Elijah Blue', is a highly recommended ornamental grass for deer-prone areas. Its tough, fibrous texture is **generally unappealing to deer**, making it a reliable choice for low-

maintenance, drought-tolerant landscapes.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=is+blue+fescue+deer+resistant&client>



To grow **Pink Pampas grass**, plant in full sun and well-draining soil, ensuring good airflow and keeping it away from structures due to its flammability and invasive potential in some regions; water regularly when young, then sparingly once established, and prune it back hard in late winter for vigorous spring growth, though you must check local bans first. Pink pampas grass ([Cortaderia selloana](#)) is considered **highly deer-resistant**.

<https://eureka-farms.com/products/rosea-pink-pampas-grass?>



18 – 24”; soft arching shape, late summer plumes. **Hamel** adds beauty and texture to gardens and landscapes. This grass is compact and clump-forming. Thrives in sun, although it can tolerate partial shade. It is crucial to provide at least 6 hours of direct sunlight daily for optimal growth and flowering. This grass prefers well-draining soil that is moderately fertile. Pruning in late winter or early spring before the new growth emerges, it is recommended to prune back the old foliage to encourage fresh growth. Its compact size and attractive plumes make it an excellent choice for borders, mass plantings and container gardening.

Japanese Sedge is a very versatile plant – it mingles attractively with flowering bulbs and

perennials. It grows to 12-18 inches in height. It can be used in garden beds or as a border plant. Mass plantings of Japanese sedge will attract a slew of pollinators to your yard, including butterflies and bees. It is low maintenance. Can thrive in the winter as long as it does not get too cold. Issues with pest or diseases are fairly rare. Japanese Sedge thrives in shady areas. If exposed to too much sun, the plants foliage will bleach, and its green color will fade significantly. Japanese sedge should be watered consistently. A good rule of thumb is to drench the plant when the top layer of soil has dried out, and you should never let the ground dry out entirely.



12-18 inches, cool season grass - soft green mound. **Sesleria autumnalis** is a low maintenance, highly resistant grass, ideal for naturalistic gardens. It adapts to a wide variety of soils, prefers sunny or semi-shaded exposure and tolerates intense frosts. It provides ornamental value from summer to winter with its changing foliage and spikelet's. One of the main attractions of *Sesleria autumnalis* is its low maintenance and resistance to adverse conditions. Its foliage and inflorescence make it ideal grass for naturalistic style gardens, borders, meadows and hard to reach areas.

Bonus Tips for NJ Gardens

Even deer-resistant grasses can be nibbled if food is scarce – consider mixing them with other resistant plants or repellent.

Most grasses like well-drained soil and full sun for best color and bloom.

1. NJ Seasonal Care Chart

Early Spring – water regularly, prune old foliage, fertilize lightly. **Late Spring-Summer** – Water during dry spells; watch for growth form.

Fall – Enjoy seed heads; no pruning yet.

Winter - Leave stems for interest, trim before spring.

2. Watering

Newly planted grasses (1st season)

Deeply water 1 – 2x/week to help roots establish. Soil should be moist but not soggy

After Established (Year 2+):

Most deer-resistant grasses are **drought tolerant** in NJ summers – water only during dry spells or if blades start drooping.

Best Time: Early morning to reduce evaporation.

3. Pruning:

Late winter/very early spring (before new shoots appear) is ideal for most ornamental grasses in NJ. Cut foliage back to within a few inches of the ground. Leaving old stems through winter provides structure and wildlife habitat, but trim before fresh spring growth.

4. Fertilizing:

Only once per year (early spring).

Use a **light, balanced fertilizer** (e.g.10-10-10) or a thin layer of compost.

Do not over fertilize – excess nutrients can make grasses floppy.

SMALL TREES

See approved tree list for Holiday Village East on community web site:

<http://www.holidayvillageeast55.com>

Deer Resistant Shade Plants

Lungwort	Brunnera
Astilbe	Oregon Grape Holly
Jack In tie Pulpit	Skimmia

Lily of the Valley Bush	Burkwood Daphne
Columbine	Pachysandra
Bergenia	Ligularia
Japanese Painted Fern	Bottlebrush Buckeye

Garden Guidelines

1. Most projects benefit from following a plan. If you're considering making changes to your garden, please give some thought to these elements
2. What's the scope and/or goal of your project? As you make decisions, reflect back to ensure that you're working toward that goal.
3. Determine if the location is full sun or partial. There's a maxim in gardening: Right Plant, Right Place. Gardening success can be destroyed by, for instance, putting a sun lover on the north side of your house. Also, part of this discussion is the condition of the soil—what amendments are needed? You can purchase a soil test kit from Rutgers and then make informed decisions.
4. Possibly most important for HVE homes: is the shrub, perennial or annual deer resistant? Or will you faithfully spray with deer repellent?
5. What height profile do you need? Low lying, medium, tall? (It is good to have varying heights.) Have you thought about the foundation plants that will anchor your house to the ground?
6. Consider the investment you'll make in flowers. Annual (one and done) or Perennial (come back every year?) Also, consider ornamental grasses. They're perennial, attractive and VERY deer resistant.
7. These questions are designed to get you started. Of course, consult online sources, especially sites labeled .edu (state universities) and .gov (USDA). Also, use the knowledge of Master Gardeners and Certified Gardeners. These organizations train volunteers to help residents with gardening

questions. Both Burlington County Master Gardeners and the Camden County Certified Gardeners can be reached through Facebook.

Why Native?

You'll notice that our suggested plants designate if that plant is a native plant. (Definition: Native plants are indigenous species that evolved naturally within a specific region, ecosystem, or habitat over thousands of years without human intervention. They are genetically adapted to local soil, climate, and moisture conditions, and have co-evolved with local wildlife, fungi, and microbes.)

The Landscape Advisory Group encourages HVE homeowners to use as many native plants as possible in their landscapes. Using natives is not an “all or nothing” project. Our environment will benefit from using “some” natives in our personal space—because our neighbors are doing the same, and together we're creating the environment that will support wildlife.

Possibly the most important aspect of growing natives is the provision of “host plants.” Planting native host plants is essential because they have co-evolved over thousands of years to provide the *specific, necessary nutrition* for local insects, such as butterfly caterpillars and specialist bees, which *cannot survive on non-native plants*. These plants are the foundation of the local food web, supporting birds and other wildlife.

If you have questions, consult state university web sites or local garden groups such as Burlington County Master Gardeners and Camden County Certified Gardeners.

Mulch

Many folks think mulch is essential in planting beds and around trees. It can unify a landscape and fill in space before shrubs and plants have reached mature size. When you're planting trees remember this: Expose the Root Flare. The root flare is the area at the base of a tree trunk where the topmost roots emerge outward. This area is sometimes referred to as the trunk flare or root crown. In many species of trees, the trunk widens and curves outward (“flares”) like the base of a wine glass. Traditional mulch is absent from the flare.



But mulch is often misused in our landscapes. One dangerous habit we Americans have is piling mulch around the base of a tree, aka creating a “mulch volcano.” (See below) This can result in lower bark rotting, reduced oxygen supply to the roots, disease and pest problems, and girdling roots.



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