



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The mission of the **Conservation Commission / Advisory Council (CC/AC)** of the City of Rye is to manage the city's conservation facilities and programs. Toward this end, it undertakes the following activities:

- Provides environmental reviews and natural resource inventories, retaining professional consultants when necessary
- Assists with environmental regulatory activities
- Coordinates citizen involvement in local and regional environmental issues.

Deer, Oh Deer!

What can I do to protect my garden?



An informational brochure by the
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION/
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

City of Rye

Frequently Asked Questions:

When are deer most active?

Damage from browsing is typically most severe when snow cover or extreme cold has reduced food availability. New growth in early spring also tends to attract deer.

Are there any effective repellents?

There are several commercial and homemade repellents that can be applied to deter deer. Some gardeners have success with suspending bars of scented soap or bags with human hair near vulnerable shrubs and trees.

Consider applying a spray made by mixing water with crushed garlic, old eggs and hot pepper sauce around plants prone to deer damage.

Change repellents frequently.

Set out visual deterrents. Deer are easily scared by movement or noise. Hang aluminum pie plates or chimes right over your vulnerable plants.

What will deer eat?



Hungry deer will eat almost anything. No plants are completely safe. Young, tender plants are generally more likely to be damaged than older, tougher plants.

- Deer are creatures of habit and will use the same path. Damage from browsing will be most severe on these “deer runs”.
- Deer usually avoid pungent, fuzzy-leaved, spiny or toxic plants. They love tulips – plant daffodils instead, which are noxious to deer.
- Watch out, deer love these plants: Arborvitae, crocus, daylily, hollyhocks, hosta, impatiens, phlox, rose, tulips
- As a first line of defense consider lining paths and garden borders with deer-repellent plants such as alliums and aromatic herbs like mints (Mentha), lavenders (Lavandula), sages (Salvia), and thyme (thymus).



Sources:
Cornell University Cooperative Extension
University of Rhode Island GreenShare Factsheets
Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station
Brooklyn Botanic Garden: Gardening for Wildlife

What won't deer eat?

(*denotes native plant)



ANNUALS AND BIENNIALS:

Ageratum / ageratum houstonianum
Blue Salvia / Salvia farinacea
Dahlia
Dusty Miller / Senecio Cineraria
Edging Lobelia / Lobelia Erinus
Forget-Me-Not / Myosotis sylvatica
Foxglove / Digitalis sp.
Heliotrope / Heliotropium arborecens
Marigold / Tagetes sp.
Morning Glory / Ipomoea sp.
Parsley / Petroselinum crispum
Poppy / Papaver sp.
Snapdragon / Antirrhinum majus
Sweet Alyssum / Lobularia maritime
Sweet Basil / Ocimum Basilicum
Thistle / Silybum sp.
Verbena / Verbena x hybrida
Wax Begonia / Begonia x semperflorens-cultorum
Zonal Geranium / Pelargonium x hortum

PERENNIALS:

Astilbe
Bee Balm / Monarda didyma *
Bugbane / Cimicifuga racemosa *
Bugleweed / Ajuga reptans
Butterfly Weed / Asclepias tuberosa *
Catmint / Nepeta
Chives, Ornamental Onion
Clematis / Clematis sp.
Coral Bells / Heuchera American
Coreopsis / Coreopsis sp.*
Daffodil / Narcissus sp.
Globe Thistle / Echinops sp.
Goat's Beard / Aruncus dioicus *
Goldenrod / Solidago sp. *
Heath / Erica sp.



Japanese Pachysandra
Joe Pye Weed / Euphorbia species *
Lamb's Ear / Stachys byzantine
Lenten Rose / Hellebores
Lily-of-the-Valley / Convallaria majallis
Lupine / Lupinus sp.
Ostrich Fern / Matteuccia struthiopteris *
Periwinkle / Vinca minor
Purple Cone Flower / Echinacea purpurea *
Sage / Salvia
Tiger Lily / Lilium lancifolium
Turtle Head / Chelone species *

SHRUBS:

Arrow wood, nudum, acerifolium, dilatatum
viburnum / Viburnum species
Bayberry / Morella pensylvanica *
Boxwood / Buxus sempervirens
Butterfly Bush / Buddleia davidii
Blue Knight Caryopteris / Caryopteris species
Mountain Laurel / Kalmia latifolia *
Red Chokecherry / Aronia arbustifolia *
Spicebush / Lindera benzoin *
Summersweet / Clethra alnifolia *
Virginia sweetspire / Itea virginica *
Winterberry, Ilex verticillata *



TREES:

River Birch / Betula Nigra *
American Holly / Ilex opaca *
Serviceberry / Amelanchier *
Swamp White Oak / Quercus bicolor
Canadian Hemlock / Tsuga Canadensis*
Canadian Redbud / Cercis Canadensis*