



Deer resistant perennials

Many native plants have evolved with characteristics which provide some protection from deer and other animal browse. Members of the mint family, including hyssop and mountain mint species are part of the mint family and are generally unpalatable to herbivores. Some plants like milkweed contain toxins in the plant sap that deters consumption by most creatures. The list below contains plants we usually sell which have some built-in browse protection, but its always good to note that browse resistance is always relative; some browse resistant plants may be eaten if there's little else available. Some plants are more resistant to deer than rabbits and groundhogs, which I've found the case to be with asters. Some plants like Helen's Flower are commonly listed as browse-resistant and I've just not seen evidence of this in the nursery. Planting browse-resistant plants with strong fragrance may provide some protection to companion plants which are susceptible.

Agastache foeniculum – Anise hyssop.

Agastache nepetoides, Yellow Giant Hyssop

Agastache scrophulariifolia, Purple Giant Hyssop

Amsonia tabernaemontana, Eastern Bluestar

Aquilegia canadensis - Wild Columbine

Asclepias incarnata, Rose Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed

Asclepias tuberosa, Butterfly Weed

Asclepias verticillata, Whorled Milkweed

Coreopsis lanceolata, Lanceleaf Coreopsis /Lanceleave Tickseed

Geranium maculatum - Wild Geranium

Helenium autumnale – Helen's flower

Liatris spicata, Dense Blazing Star

Lobelia siphilitica – Great Blue Lobelia

Monarda fistulosa, Beebalm/Bergamot

Monarda punctata, Spotted Beebalm

Monarda didyma, Beebalm

Penstemon digitalis – Foxglove Beardtongue

Penstemon hirsutus, Hairy Beardtongue

Pycnanthemum incanum, Hoary Mountain Mint

Pycnanthemum muticum, Clustered Mountain Mint

Pycnanthemum tenuifolium, Slender Mountain Mint

Pycnanthemum virginianum, Mountain Mint

Rudbeckia fulgida, Orange Coneflower

Rudbeckia hirta - Black-eyed Susan

Rudbeckia laciniata, Cutleaf Coneflower

Solidago species, Goldenrods

Symphyotrichum species, Asters

Grasses

Andropogon gerardii, Big Bluestem

Chasmanthium latifolium, River Oats/Northern Sea Oats

Panicum virgatum, Switchgrass

Schizachyrium scoparium, Little Bluestem

Sorghastrum nutans, American Prairie Grass