



Deer Resistant/Tolerant Native Plants For Southeastern Pennsylvania

The following list was compiled using deer resistant/tolerant plant lists from Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve http://www.bhwp.org/cms/files/file_ID96121.pdf, Rutgers University <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/deerresistance/> and the Penn State (Monroe County) Cooperative Extension "Deer Resistant Plants" as well as my personal and professional experience and reviewing the list with other landscape/horticulture professionals.

Disclaimer –Despite the title, there are no completely deer resistant/tolerant plant. A hungry deer will eat what is available. However it is understood that deer food preferences change with deer population levels, the season and can vary region to region. That is to say that a plant a deer avoids in September, will be readily eaten in March and what a deer prefers in Chester County will not be the same in other parts of our region. It is also important to protect newly established plantings through the use of repellents and fencing. As curious animals, deer will test new plantings. A plant that can withstand deer in maturity may be vulnerable initially. The purpose of this list is to serve as a guideline or starting point to see which plants work for you.

Drew Gilchrist – June 2013

Deer Resistant/Tolerant Native Herbaceous Plants

Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Spread	Sunlight	Moisture and Soil Conditions	Color	Bloom
Monkshood	<i>Aconitum uncinatum</i>	2'-5'	1'-2'	Full sun to Partial shade	Rich, loam, clay soils. Low woods and damp slopes, along streams.	blue	June-Sept
Sweet Flag	<i>Acorus americanus</i>	4'	1'-3'	Full sun	Tolerates acidic soil. Needs high moisture.	yellow	Late spring
Doll's-eyes	<i>Actaea pachypoda</i>	1.5'-3'	2'-3'	Partial shade to full shade.	Dry to moist	white	May-June
Black Cohosh	<i>Actaea racemosa (Cimicifuga racemosa)</i>	6'-8'	2'-4'	Partial shade to full shade.	Dry to moist	white	June-July
Giant Purple Hyssop	<i>Agastache scrophulariifolia</i>	2'-2.5'	1'-1.5'	Full sun to partial shade.	Rich woods, moist thickets.	bluish-purple	July-Sept
Small Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia parviflora</i>	2.5'-5'	1.5'-2'	Full sun to partial shade.	Moist conditions and loamy, silty, gravelly, or sandy soil. Tolerates temporary flooding.	yellow	Mid Summer
Eastern Blue-star	<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	2'-3'	2'-3'	Full sun to partial shade.	Prefers moist soil conditions	powdery blue	Apr-May
Wild Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	2'-3'	1'-1.5'	Full sun to full shade	Likes dry conditions	light pink/yellow to blood red/yellow	Apr-May
Jack-in-the-pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	3.5'-5'	1'-1.5'	Part shade to full shade.	Moist	green/purple	Apr-May
Goat's-beard	<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	4'-6'	2'-4'	Full sun to partial shade.	Easily grown in average, medium to wet, well-drained soil.	cream	Apr-May
Wild ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Up to 1'	1'-1.5'	Part shade to full shade.	Easily grown in average, medium to wet, well-drained soil. Prefers constantly moist, acidic soils in heavy shade.	purplish-brown	Apr-May
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	4'-5'	2'-3'	Full sun.	Easily grown in medium to wet soils such as swamps and wet meadows.	white, pink, mauve	July-Aug
Butterfly-Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	1'-2.5'	1'-1.5'	Full to partial sun.	Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils. Drought tolerant. Does well in poor, dry soils.	orange	June-Aug
White Wood Aster	<i>Aster divaricatus (Eurybia divaricata)</i>	1.5'-2'	1.5'-2.5'	Very shade tolerant.	Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil. Thrives in shade and tolerates dry conditions.	white	Aug-Sept
New England Aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae (Symphyotrichum novae-angliae)</i>	3'-6'	2'-3'	Full sun	Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil. Prefers moist, rich soils.	purple	Aug-Sept
Green-and-gold	<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>	.5'-1'	.75'-1.5'	Sun to shade.	Well-drained	yellow	May-Oct

Herbaceous Plants continued (2)

Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Spread	Sunlight	Moisture and Soil Conditions	Color	Bloom
Tickseed	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	1'-2'	1'-1.5'	Full sun	Dry to medium moisture, well-drained soil. Tolerant of heat, humidity, and drought.	yellow	May-July
Rose Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis rosea</i>	1'-2'	1.5'-2.5'	Full sun	Medium moisture, well-drained soil.	pink and yellow	June-Sept
Dutchman's-Breeches	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	.5'-1'	.5'-1'	Part shade to full shade.	Rich, moist, humusy soils. Requires good soil drainage.	white to pink	March
Fringed Bleeding Hear	<i>Dicentra eximia</i>	1.5'-3'	1'-1.5'	Part Shade	Dry to moist	Rose pink	Apr-July
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	2'-5'	1.5'-2'	Full sun to partial shade.	Tolerant of heat, drought, humidity, and poor soil.	rose-purple	Summer
Flowering spurge	<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	.5'-3'		Full sun	Mesic to dry. Drought resistant. Tolerates poor soil.	white	Mid-late Summer
Wood Geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	1.5'-3'	1'-1.5'	Full sun to part shade.	Prefers moist, humusy soils, but tolerates poor soils.	pale pink, deep pink, lilac	Apr-May
Helen's Flower, Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	3'-5'	2'-3'	Full sun	Rich, moist soils. Intolerant of dry soils.	yellow	Aug-Oct
Swamp Rose-mallow	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	2'-2.5'	1.5'-2'	Full to partial sun.	Drought tolerant.	pink to white	Jul-Sept
Great St. John's-wort	<i>Hypericum pyramidatum (H. ascyron)</i>	5'	5'	Full sun. Shade intolerant.	Slightly acidic. Low drought tolerance.	yellow	Late Summer
Blue flag Iris	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	2'-2.5'	2'-2.5'	Full sun to partial shade.	Tolerates clay. Fresh to moderately brackish water.	blue	May-June
Twin-leaf	<i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i>	Up to 1'	.5'-.75'	Part shade. Tolerates full shade.	Dry to moist, humusy, well-drained, limestone soils	white	Apr
Dense Blazing Star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	2'-4'	.75'-1.5'	Full sun.	Somewhat tolerant of poor soils, but prefers moist, fertile well-drained soils.	red-purple	July-Aug
Cardinal-flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	2'-4'	1'-2'	Tolerates partial shade.	Easily grown in rich, humusy, medium to wet soils. Needs constant moisture.	blood red	July-Sept
Great Blue Lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	2'-3'	1'-1.5'	Full to partial sun. Shade tolerant.	Easily grown in rich, humusy, medium to wet soils. Needs constant moisture.	blue	July-Sept
Meehan's Mint	<i>Meehania cordata</i>	3-6"	3-18"	Part shade to full shade.	Best grown in rich, humusy, medium moisture, well-drained soils. Tolerates full sun if kept uniformly moist.	violet	May-June
Virginia Bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	1.5'-2'	1'-1.5'	Full sun to part shade.	Average, medium well-drained soils. Prefers rich, moist.	blue	Apr-May
Monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	1'-3'	.75'-1'	Full to partial sun.	Moist to wet soil.	lilac purple	June-Sept

Herbaceous Plants continued (3)

Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Spread	Sunlight	Moisture and Soil Conditions	Color	Bloom
Beebalm	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	1'-2'	1'-2'	Full to partial sun.	Best grown in dry to medium moisture, well-drained soils. Tolerates poor soils and some drought.	pink to white with purple	May
Wild Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	2'-4'	2'-3'	Full sun to part shade.	Well-drained.	lavender	July-Sept
Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	3'-5'	1.5'-2'	Full sun	Grow in average, dry to medium moisture, well-drained soil. Avoid wet, poorly drained soils.	white	Apr-June
Blue Wood Phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	.75'-1'	.75'-1'	Part shade to full shade.	Best grown in humusy, medium moisture, well-drained soil. Prefers rich, moist, organic soils.	rose/lavender or violet/blue	Apr-May
Creeping Phlox	<i>Phlox stolonifera</i>	.5'-1'	.75'-1.75'	Full sun to part shade.	Humusy, medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Prefers acidic, rich, organic soils with continuous, even moisture.	purple	July-Sept
Obedient Plant	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	3'-4'	2'-3'	Full sun	Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil.	pink/white	June-Sept
May-apple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	1'-1.5'	.75'-1'	Part shade to full shade.	Grow in average, medium moisture, well-drained soil. Prefers rich, moist, humusy soils.	white	Apr
Jacob's-ladder	<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	1'-1.5'	1'-1.5'	Full sun to part shade.	Best grown in moist, humusy, well-drained soil.	blue	Apr-June
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	2'-3'	1'-2'	Full to partial sun.	Average, medium moisture, well-drained soils. Best in moist, organically rich soils. Tolerates heat, drought and a wide range of soils except poorly-drained wet ones.	yellow to orange/yellow	June-Sept
Bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	.5'-.75'	.25'-.5'	Part shade to full shade.	Best grown in moist, humusy, well-drained soils.	white	Mar-Apr
Skullcap	<i>Scutellaria incana</i>	2'-3'	1.5'-2'	Full sun to part shade.	Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil. Best on dryish, sandy or clay soils.	blue	July-Sept
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago</i> spp. (<i>caesia</i> , <i>patula</i> , <i>rigida</i>)	3'-5'	1.5'-2.5'	Full to partial sun.	Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil.	yellow	Aug-Sept

Deer Resistant/Tolerant Native Shrubs and Trees

Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Spread	Sunlight	Moisture and Soil Conditions	Color	Bloom
Shadblow or Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea/laevis</i>	6'-20'	10'	Partial sun. Shade tolerant.	Dry to moist	white	Very Early Spring
Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	15'-20'	15'-20'	Full sun	Moist, fertile, slightly acidic soils.	purple	Early May
Carolina allspice	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	4'-7'	4'-7'	Full sun. Tolerant of partial shade.	Moist, rich soils. pH adaptable.	dark brown-maroon	May-July
Summersweet, Sweet Pepperbush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	5'-8'	4'-6'	Full sun to partial shade. Shade tolerant.	Prefers moist, acidic soil with organic matter.	white	July-Aug
Red-osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	6'-8'	6'-8'	Full to partial sun. Shade tolerant.	Drought tolerant.	white	Late May- Early June
Hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>	8'-15'	8'-15'	Partial sun to shade.	Dry woodlands.	yellowish brown	Early Spring
Leatherwood	<i>Dirca palustris</i>	3'-6'	3'-6'	Part shade to full shade.	Organically rich, consistently moist, slightly acidic soils. Avoid dry soils.	pale yellow	Early Spring
Witch-hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	20'-30'	20'-25'	Full sun or partial shade	Dry to moist soils	yellow	Nov-Dec
Shrubby St. John's-wort	<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	1'-4'	1'-4'	Full sun.	Dry soils. pH adaptable.	yellow	Summer
Inkberry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	4'-6'	4'-6'	Full to partial sun. Shade tolerant.	Tolerates wet areas.	white	June
Winterberry Holly	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	3'-5'	3'-5'	Full sun to partial shade.	Seasonally flooded areas.	greenish white	Late Spring
Fetterbush	<i>Leucothoe racemosa</i>	4'-6'	4'-6'	Partial shade.	Moist, cool, acidic soils.	white	May-June
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	10'-15'	6'-10'	Shade	Moist, rich soils. Tolerates acidic soils.	yellow	Early May
Bayberry	<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	6'-8'	5'-12'	Full to partial sun.	Does well in poor, sandy soil. Drought tolerant.	yellow-green	Early Spring
Red Chokeberry	<i>Photinia pyrifolia (Aronia arbutifolia)</i>	6'-8'	3'-5'	Partial sun. Shade intolerant.	Low drought tolerance.	white	Mid-Spring
Black Chokeberry	<i>(Aronia melanocarpa)</i>	6'-10'	3'-6'	Full sun to part shade.	Medium moisture, well-drained soils. Wide range of soil tolerance including boggy soils.	white to light pink	Mid-Spring

Trees and Shrubs continued (2)

Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Spread	Sunlight	Moisture and Soil Conditions	Color	Bloom
Shrubby Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	2'-4'	3'-5'	Full sun to part shade.	Moderately fertile, medium moisture, well-drained soils. Tolerates poor soils.	yellow	June-Sept
Allegheny Blackberry	<i>Rubus allegheniensis</i>	4'-6'	3'-4'	Full to partial sun. Shade tolerant.	Slightly acidic soils. Drought tolerant. Medium moisture use.	white	Mid Spring
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	5'-12'	6'-14'	Full sun to partial shade.	Drought tolerant.	white	July
Steeplebush, hardhack	<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	3'-6'		Full sun to part shade.	Great for streambanks, preferring moist to wet soils.	pink	Summer
Maple leafed Viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerfolium</i>	6'-12'	8'-12'	Full sun to light shade	Moist well drained soils	white	Late spring
Arrowwood viburnum	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	5'-9'	5'-9'	Full sun to partial shade.	Drought tolerant.	white	May-June
Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	15'-18'	6'-10'	Sun or partial shade.	Adapts to wide range.	white	Mid-Late May
Blackhaw viburnum	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	12'-15'	8'-12'	Sun or shade.	Adapts to wide range.	white	Spring
TREES							
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	40'-60'	40'-50'	Part shade	Tolerant of most soils, prefers slightly acid, moist	red	Late Mar- Early May
Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	50'-70'	40'-50'	Full to partial sun. Tolerates some shade.	Poor soils, wet conditions.	greenish or yellowish red	Apr-May
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	60'-70'	40'-50'	Shade tolerant	Moist, well drained soils.	yellow green	Apr-May
Sweet Birch or Black Birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>	40'-55'+	40'-60'	Shade intolerant.	Deep, rich, moist, slightly acid soils, but found on rockier, drier sites.	yellow	Late Spring
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	40'-70'	40'-60'	Full sun.	Moist soils	brown	Mid-Spring
American Hornbeam or Musclewood	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	30'-65'	15'-25'	Shade tolerant.	Moist. Adapts to wet or dry soil.	orange	Mid-Spring
Eastern Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	20'-25'	25'-35'	Partial sun. Shade tolerant.	Nitrogen fixer.	rosy pink	Early Spring

Trees and Shrubs continued (3)

Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Spread	Sunlight	Moisture and Soil Conditions	Color	Bloom
Atlantic white-cedar	<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	20'-50'	10'-20'	Partial sun. Shade tolerant.	Prefers deep, moist, sandy soil. Found in areas with fluctuating water tables.	green	Spring
Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	15'-20'	10'-15'	Full sun to partial shade.	Prefers cool, moist, acidic soil that contains organic matter.	reddish pink	Apr-May
American Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	50'-70'	50'-70'	Full sun or shade	Moist, well-drained	yellow	April-early May
White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	70'-140'	30'-50'	All sunlight conditions.	Moist, well-drained soils.	green, purple, black	Mid-Apr-Late Apr
Red Ash, Green Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	70'-140'	30'-50'	Full sun.	Moist to wet fertile soils.	green	Mid-Late Apr
Honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	30'-70'	30'-70'	Full sun.	Grows best in rich moist bottomlands with neutral pH, but adaptable. Tolerant of pollution.	greenish yellow	May-June
American Holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	40'-50'	18'-40'	Full to partial sun. Shade tolerant.	Moist, acidic, well-drained soil.	white	June
Eastern Red-Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	40'-50'	8'-15'	Full sun	Tolerant of most conditions. pH adaptable.	male yellow, female green	Late Winter
Tamarack, Eastern Larch	<i>Larix laricina</i>	50'-80'	20'-30'	Full sun. Shade intolerant.	Moist, well-drained, acidic soil is best, but tolerant of wet soils.	red	Mid-Spring
Sweet Gum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	60'-75'	40'-50'	Best in full sun, tolerates partial shade.	Deep, moist, acid soils, bottomlands	yellowish-green	May
Tuliptree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	120'	40'-60'	Full sun to partial shade.	Well drained soils.	greenish yellow	Late May-Mid-June
Sweetbay Magnolia	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	10'-20'	10'-20'	Tolerates shade.	Likes wet, acid soils. Tolerates drought.	white	Mid-June; sporadically during summer
Black-gum, Tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	30'-50'	20'-30'	Full sun or semi-shade.	Moist, well-drained, acid soils.	green	Late Spring
Spruces	<i>Picea sp.</i>	40'-60'	25'-30'	Full sun.	Well-drained, sandy, acidic soils.	pink	Mid-Spring
Pitch Pine	<i>Pinus rigida</i>	40'-60'	30'-50'	Full sun.	Light, sandy, well-drained, acidic soil preferred. Salt tolerant.	yellow-green	Spring

