

Designing with Deer-Resistant Flowers

By Karen Chapman CPH, Le jardinet

A shopping list of deer-resistant flowers won't translate into a beautiful border but rather just be a collection of random plants. This presentation will teach you how to combine your favorite deer-resistant flowers, perhaps with other plants you already have, to create artistic, multi-season vignettes that you can be proud of but the deer will leave alone. With examples for hot sunny areas and dry shade you will learn strategies to thwart the deer while gaining a better understanding of what deer-resistance means and looks like.

Defining deer resistance: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/deer-resistant-plants/> (bookmark this!)

A = rarely damaged

B = seldom severely damaged

C = occasionally severely damaged

D = frequently severely damaged

(Even level A may be nibbled a little on occasion – be realistic in your expectations.)

Creating a Foliage Picture Frame is Key to Success

Create a connection between foliage and flowers such as a color echo that enhances the bloom. Also look for ways to disguise any seasonal flower gaps using deer-resistant foliage.

Combinations for Sunny Areas

- Whirling Butterflies gaura + wormwood + Russian sage. Add in or substitute lamb's ears, catmint, sage, white peonies
- Paprika yarrow + Double Play Gold spirea + Blue Star juniper. Add on or substitute Spilled Wine weigela, red barberries, loropetalum
- Black-eyed Susan + orange crocosmia, Shenandoah switch grass, paperbark maple. Add in or substitute Millennium allium, blue fir, wormwood
- Red & Yellow Bicolor zinnia + Midnight Masquerade penstemon + Tiger Eyes sumac. Add in or substitute blanket flower, beebalm, silver broom, Kaleidoscope abelia
- Sea holly + sweet alyssum + shasta daisy + Russian sage. Add in or substitute dwarf Arizona corkbark fir, wormwood
- Bearded & Siberian iris (purple/blue shades) + catmint+ pink peony + weigela + lady's mantle
- Rozanne hardy geranium + purple smoke bush+ variegated weigela + Shenandoah switch grass. Add in or substitute lavender, white coneflower, Concorde barberry
- Rose Marvel sage + Double Play Painted Lady spirea

Combinations for Shady Areas

- Oregon grape + Rainbow leucothoe, Everillo carex + Himalayan maidenhair fern. Add in or substitute barberry, Virginia sweetspire in lighter shade areas
- Bigroot geranium + Oregon grape + variegated woodrush + Jack Frost Siberian bugloss. Add in or substitute Orangeola Japanese maple, Anna's Red hellebore, Japanese forest grass, English bluebells, bleeding heart
- Old fashioned bleeding heart + Little Heath andromeda. Goldheart bleeding heart + barberry + beesia.
- Foxglove + wisteria. Foxglove + birch trees + spurge. Goldcrest foxglove + Gilt Edge silverberry + bugleweed
- Bugleweed + Blade of Sun snowberry + barberry. Add in or substitute Rodgers flower, Ogon spirea + Japanese maples

My 10 Favorite Deer-Resistant Flowers & Foliage for the Pacific Northwest Combinations

- Whirling butterflies gaura (*Gaura lindheimeri* 'Whirling Butterflies') USDA 5-9. Deer resistance A
- Paprika yarrow (*Achillea millefolium* 'Paprika') USDA 3-9. Deer resistance B
- Arkansas Blue Star (*Amsonia hubrichtii*) USDA 5-8. Deer resistance A
- Karley Rose fountain grass (*Pennisetum orientale* 'Karley Rose') USDA 5-8. Deer resistance A
- Siberian cypress (*Microbiota decussata*) USDA 3-7 Deer resistance A
- Jerusalem sage (*Phlomis russeliana*) USDA 5-9. Deer resistance A
- Gilt Edge serviceberry (*Elaeagnus x ebbingei* 'Gilt Edge') USDA 7-9. Deer resistance A
- New Zealand holly (*Olearia macrodonta*) USDA 8-11 Deer resistance: A
- Silver broom (*Adenocarpus decorticans*) USDA 8-10. Deer resistance A
- Shrubby hare's ear (*Bupleurum fruticosum*) USDA 6-10. Deer-resistance A

There are DOZENS more ideas in my new book!

Want more ideas? Take me home with you!

- Check out my popular [online course](#) (which includes videos and handouts) **Deer-Resistant Design**.
- Pick up a signed copy of my latest book **Deer-Resistant Design: Fence-free gardens that thrive despite the deer** (Timber press, 2019)
- Review my [website and blog](#) for inspiration, events, newsletters, garden tours, and free stuff!
- Sign up for my [newsletter](#) and receive my FREE download **15 FUN deer-resistant plants** (because who wants boring stuff??)
- **Questions?** Email me karen@lejardinetdesigns.com

