

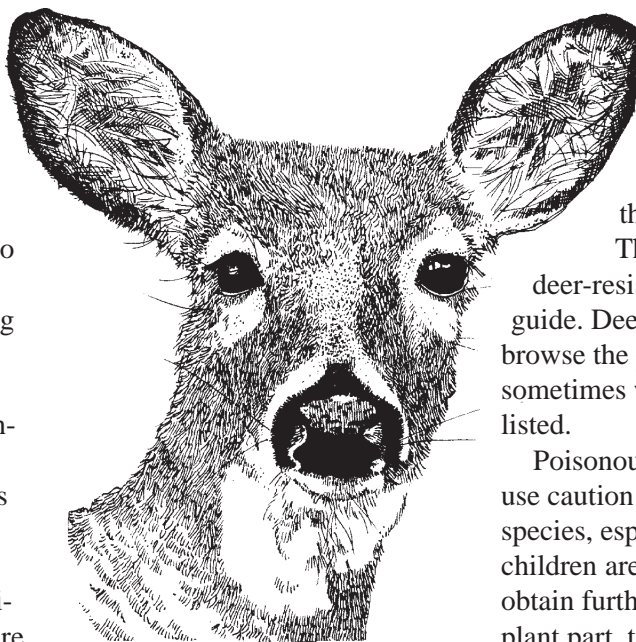
# Deer-resistant Ornamental Plants

*J.L. Horton and W.D. Edge*

**A**lthough many people enjoy deer, these animals can be destructive to gardens, orchards, and landscaped areas. Deer damage to ornamental plants is associated with a variety of factors including increasing numbers of deer, human population shifts to rural and suburban areas, and landowners prohibiting deer hunting.

Although a deer-proof fence is the best insurance against deer damage, landscaping with deer-resistant plants is a more aesthetically pleasing alternative. Deer are selective feeders; they prefer some foods over others. Plants deer usually avoid are considered deer-resistant. Deer eat a variety of vegetation including woody plants, grasses, fruits, nuts, ornamental trees, shrubs, vines, and garden vegetables. Landscaping based on a knowledge of deer feeding habits can reduce or eliminate costly browsing damage to ornamentals.

A plant can be deer resistant for several reasons. Many of the most deer-resistant plants are poisonous—some at all times, and others only at certain growth stages.



Tastes, preferences, and digestibility also vary with plant parts, plant age, growth stage, and time of year. The availability of natural food can greatly affect the amount of damage caused by deer. If an adequate supply of natural browse is available, deer are less likely to eat ornamental plants. When the natural food supply is low, however, few ornamental plants will be resistant, and deer may cause heavy browse damage. A large deer population can create competition for food, causing deer to eat many plants that they normally

would avoid. Deer damage usually occurs from late fall through early spring.

The following list of deer-resistant plants is a general guide. Deer sometimes will browse the plants listed and sometimes will avoid plants not listed.

Poisonous plants are labeled; use caution when choosing these species, especially in areas where children are present. You may obtain further information on the plant part, time of year, and form of toxicity from garden nurseries and libraries.

Plant climate zones are listed for each plant species. These zones are areas with a common set of temperature ranges, humidity patterns, and other geographic and seasonal characteristics that allow certain plants to grow.

---

*Jenner L. Horton, research assistant, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Oregon State University; and W. Daniel Edge, Extension wildlife specialist; Oregon State University.*










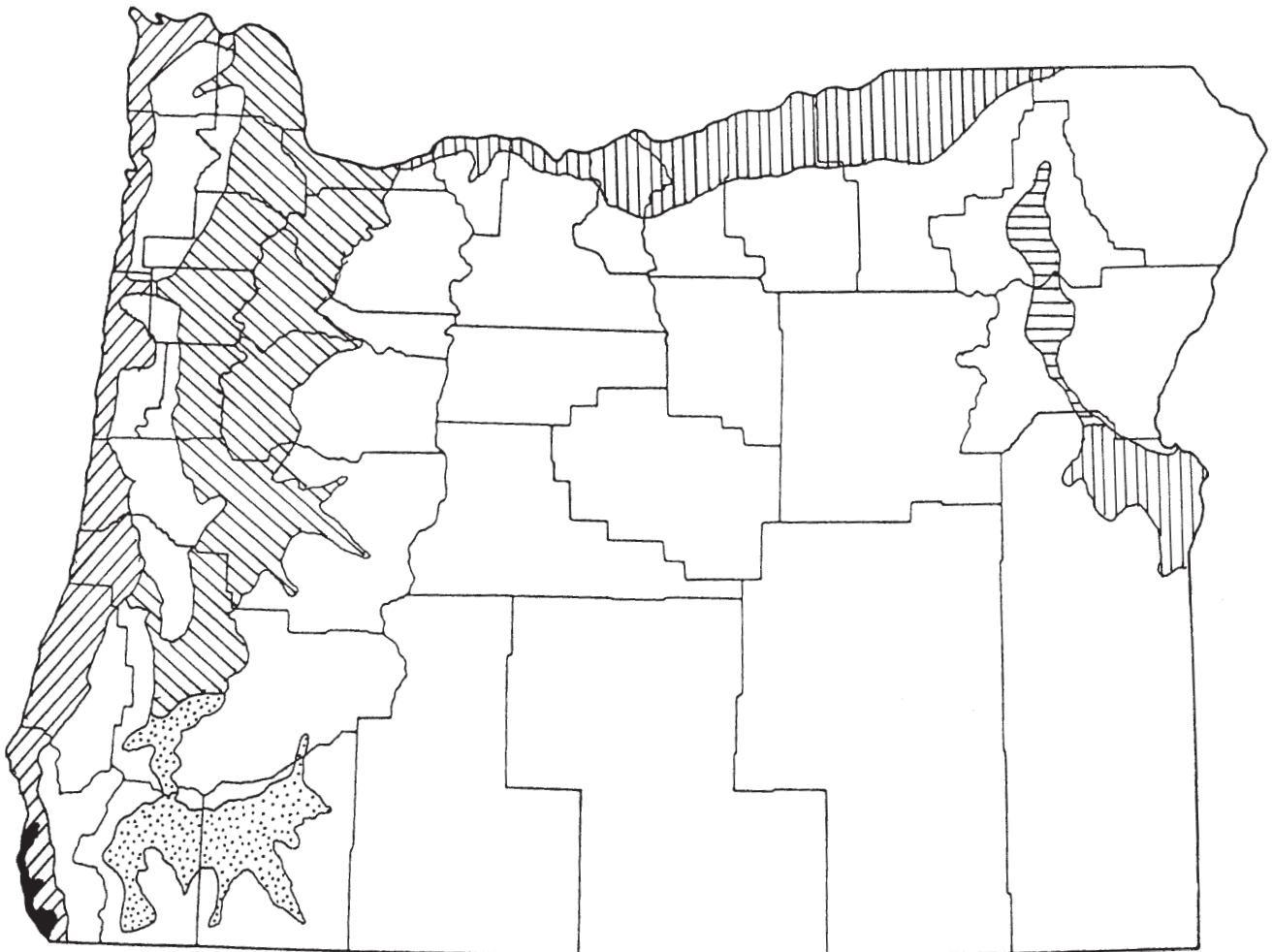
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE

EC 1440  
July 1994



# Oregon Climate Zone Summaries

-  **Zone 1** Coldest winters in the western United States. Snow stays on the ground for extended periods.
-  **Zone 2** Second coldest winters. Average low temperatures somewhat warmer than in zone 1. Snow stays on the ground for extended periods.
-  **Zone 3** Mildest snowy-winter climate. Snow stays on the ground, but average low temperatures are warmer than in zone 2.
-  **Zone 4** Marine influence along the coast. Relatively warm winters, and snow is rare.
-  **Zone 5** Willamette Valley: warmer summers and longer growing season than in zone 4. Snow remaining on the ground is uncommon.
-  **Zone 6** Rogue River Valley: hot summers and mild but pronounced winters.
-  **Zone 7** Marine influence along the southern coast. Cool, wet winters and cool summers, frequently with fog or wind.



# Perennials, Bulbs

Note: "All zones" refers to all zones throughout the United States.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Climate Zone
<i>Agapanthus africanus</i> .....	Blue Lily-of-the-Nile .....	6, 7
<i>Agave americana</i> (POISONOUS) .....	Century Plant (POISONOUS) .....	7
<i>Aloe</i> spp. ....	Aloe .....	7
<i>Aquilegia</i> spp. ....	Columbine .....	All zones
<i>Artemisia tridentata</i> .....	Basin Sagebrush, Big Sage .....	All zones
<i>Arundo donax</i> .....	Giant Reed .....	All zones
<i>Delphinium</i> spp. (POISONOUS) .....	Larkspur (POISONOUS) .....	All Oregon zones
<i>Digitalis</i> spp. (POISONOUS) .....	Foxglove (POISONOUS) .....	All zones
<i>Echium fastuosum</i> .....	Pride of Madeira .....	7
<i>Helleborus</i> spp. (POISONOUS) .....	Hellebore .....	All zones
<i>Iris</i> spp. ....	Iris .....	All zones
<i>Kniphofia uvaria</i> .....	Devil's Poker, Red-hot Poker .....	All Oregon zones
<i>Leucojum</i> spp. ....	Snowflake .....	All zones
<i>Lupines</i> spp. (POISONOUS) .....	Lupine (POISONOUS) .....	All zones
<i>Narcissus</i> spp. (POISONOUS) .....	Narcissus, Daffodil (POISONOUS) .....	All zones
<i>Nolina parryi</i> .....	Nolina .....	7
<i>Oxalis oregana</i> .....	Oxalis, Redwood Sorrel .....	4, 5, 6, 7
<i>Pediocactus</i> spp. ....	Hedgehog Thistle .....	1
<i>Phormium tenax</i> .....	New Zealand Flax .....	6, 7
<i>Romneya coulteri</i> .....	Matilija Poppy .....	All zones
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> .....	Rosemary .....	3, 4, 5, 6, 7
<i>Trillium</i> spp. ....	Trillium, Wake-robin .....	All zones
<i>Tulipa</i> spp. ....	Tulip .....	All zones
<i>Zantedeschia</i> spp. ....	Calla Lily .....	4, 5, 7
<i>Zauschneria</i> spp. ....	Zauschneria, California Fuchsia .....	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

# Shrubs

Botanical Name	Common Name	Climate Zone
<i>Berberis</i> spp. ....	Common Barberry, Oregon Grape .....	All zones
<i>Buddleia davidii</i> .....	Butterfly Bush .....	All Oregon zones
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> .....	Common Boxwood .....	3, 4, 5, 7
<i>Calyceanthus occidentalis</i> .....	Western Spice Bush .....	4, 5, 6, 7
<i>Celastrus scandens</i> (POISONOUS) .....	American Bittersweet (POISONOUS) .....	All zones
<i>Chamaerops humilis</i> .....	European Fan Palm .....	4, 5, 6, 7
<i>Choisya ternata</i> .....	Mexican Orange .....	4, 5, 6, 7
<i>Coprosma repens</i> .....	Mirror Shrub .....	7
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i> .....	Red Osier Dogwood .....	All Oregon zones
<i>Correa</i> spp. ....	Australian Fuchsia .....	4, 5, 7
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i> .....	Smoke Tree .....	1, 2, 3
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i> .....	Scotch Broom .....	4, 5, 6, 7
<i>Daphne</i> spp. (POISONOUS) .....	Daphne (POISONOUS) .....	All Oregon zones
<i>Enkianthus campanulatus</i> .....	Redvein Enkianthus .....	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
<i>Forsythia</i> spp. ....	Forsythia .....	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<i>Hakea suaveolens</i> .....	Sweet Hakea .....	7
<i>Ilex</i> spp. (except thornless) .....	Holly .....	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
<i>Jasminum</i> spp. ....	Jasmine .....	4, 5, 6, 7
<i>Juniperus</i> spp. ....	Juniper .....	All zones
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i> (POISONOUS) .....	Mountain Laurel (POISONOUS) .....	All Oregon zones
<i>Kerria japonica</i> .....	Japanese Rose .....	All Oregon zones
<i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i> .....	Beauty Bush .....	All Oregon zones
<i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i> .....	Drooping Leucothoe .....	4, 6, 7
<i>Melianthus major</i> .....	Honey Bush .....	7
<i>Nerium oleander</i> (POISONOUS) .....	Oleander (POISONOUS) .....	7
<i>Opuntia</i> spp. ....	Prickly Pear .....	1, 2
<i>Pieris japonica</i> (POISONOUS) .....	Japanese Pieris (POISONOUS) .....	All Oregon zones
<i>Prunus caroliniana</i> (POISONOUS) .....	Carolina Cherry Laurel (POISONOUS) .....	6, 7
<i>Rhododendron</i> spp. (POISONOUS) .....	Rhododendron (POISONOUS) .....	All zones
<i>Rhus ovata</i> .....	Sugar Bush .....	6, 7
<i>Sabal blackburniana</i> .....	Hispaniolan Palmetto. ....	7
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> (POISONOUS) .....	Red Elderberry (POISONOUS) .....	1, 2, 3
<i>Solanum</i> spp. (POISONOUS) .....	Nightshade (POISONOUS) .....	1, 4, 5, 6, 7
<i>Spartium junceum</i> .....	Spanish Broom .....	4, 5, 6, 7
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> .....	Common lilac .....	All Oregon zones
<i>Teucrium fruticans</i> .....	Germander .....	4, 5, 6, 7

# Trees

Botanical Name	Common Name	Climate Zone
<i>Beaucarnea recurvata</i>	Ponytail, Bottle Palm	7
<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	Paper Birch	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
<i>Betula pendula</i>	European White Birch	All Oregon zones
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	Dracaena Palm	4, 7
<i>Cornus capitata</i>	Himalayan Dogwood	7
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood	All Oregon zones
<i>Cornus kousa</i>	Kousa Dogwood	3, 4, 5, 6
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>	English Hawthorn	All Oregon zones
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Persimmon	3, 4, 5, 6, 7
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian Olive	1, 2, 3, 6
<i>Erythea armata</i>	Mexican Blue Palm	7
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	European Beech	All Oregon zones
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Edible Fig	4, 5, 7
<i>Fraxinus velutina</i>	Arizona Ash	7
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Honey Locust	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<i>Ilex</i> spp. (except thornless)	Holly	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
<i>Juniperus</i> spp.	Juniper	All zones
<i>Lyonothamnus floribundus</i>	Catalina Ironwood	7
<i>Melia azedarach</i> (POISONOUS)	China-berry Tree (POISONOUS)	5, 7
<i>Myrica californica</i>	Wax Myrtle	4, 5, 7
<i>Phoenix</i> spp.	Date Palm	7
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce	All Oregon zones
<i>Picea glauca</i>	White Spruce	All Oregon zones
<i>Picea pungens</i>	Colorado Blue Spruce	All Oregon zones
<i>Pinus mugo</i>	Mugo Pine	All Oregon zones
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Austrian Pine	All Oregon zones
<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	Red Pine	All Oregon zones
<i>Pinus rigida</i>	Pitch Pine	All Oregon zones
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	All Oregon zones
<i>Prunus serrulata</i> (POISONOUS)	Japanese Flowering Cherry (POISONOUS)	4, 7
<i>Quillaja saponaria</i>	Soapbark Tree	7
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> (POISONOUS)	Black Locust (POISONOUS)	All zones
<i>Salix matsudana tortuosa</i>	Corkscrew Willow	All zones
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Common Sassafras	4, 5, 7
<i>Schinus molle</i>	California Pepper Tree	7
<i>Syzygium paniculatum</i>	Australian Bush-cherry, Eugenia	7
<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>	Windmill Palm	4, 7

# Vines, Ground Covers

Botanical Name	Common Name	Climate Zone
<i>Clematis</i> spp.	Clematis (POISONOUS)	All Oregon zones
<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i> (POISONOUS)	Carolina Jessamine (POISONOUS)	7
<i>Hedera helix</i> (POISONOUS)	English Ivy (POISONOUS)	All zones
<i>Solanum</i> spp. (POISONOUS)	Nightshade (POISONOUS)	1, 4, 5, 6, 7
<i>Tecomaria capensis</i>	Cape Honeysuckle	7
<i>Wisteria floribunda</i> (POISONOUS)	Japanese Wisteria (POISONOUS)	All zones

## Ordering Instructions

If you would like additional copies of EC 1440, *Deer-resistant Ornamental Plants*, send 75¢ per copy to:

Publications Orders  
 Agricultural Communications  
 Oregon State University  
 Administrative Services A422  
 Corvallis, OR 97331-2119  
 (541) 737-2513  
 Fax: (541) 737-0817



This publication was produced and distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. Extension work is a cooperative program of Oregon State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Oregon counties. Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials—without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, disability, and disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status—as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer.