

Rabbit Resistant Perennials

Rabbits are very effective plant destroying machines, not merely eating enough to get-by, their insatiable appetite for new things causes much damage throughout the garden.

Rabbits have different tastes than deer and will often eat plants that deer will pass by. No plant is said to be really rabbit proof. Young rabbits investigate by nibbling plants. They soon learn which are tasty and which ones to leave alone. I have even seen damage on my hardy prickly pear, *Opuntia macrorhiza*.

In general, rabbits dislike very aromatic plants, plants that ooze caustic milky sap, prickly plants, plants with spines, or plants with tough, leathery leaves. Rabbit damage is identified because rabbits will chew the stems off cleanly, while deer, as grazers, leave a ragged edge. Fortunately, rabbits are much easier to keep out of the garden, as a 3-foot fence is usually sufficient, provided it is secured at the bottom and the holes are not too large. Young rabbits will easily squeeze through 4" mesh. I sink a 2x8 board in the ground and staple the bottom of the fence to it. An alternative is to dig a 6-8" trench and bend the bottom of the fence to an "L" shape and bury it. This not only keeps them out, but also other burrowing animals.

Achillea	Astilbe	Epimedium	Monarda
Aconitum	Bergenia	Eryngium	Myosotis
Ajuga	Brunnera	Eupatorium rugosum	Nepeta
Alchemilla	Buddleia	Euphorbia	Pericaria
Allium	Chelone	Geranium sanguineum	Polemonium
Amsonia	Coreopsis palmata	Helleborus	Pulmonaria
Anemone hybrid	Delphinium	Houttuynia	Salvia
Arenaria	Dicentra spectabilis	Iris sibirica	Stachys byzantina
Artemesia	Digitalis	Lavendula	Tradescantia
Asclepias	Echinops ritro	Lysimachia clethroides	Trollius
Aster Azureus	Echinacea pallida	Mertensia	Yucca

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