

TOP 10

PERENNIALS FOR DEER TOLERANCE
SELECTED BY PHIPPS CONSERVATORY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS



These plants are excellent choices for your home garden landscape. They are non-invasive, are resistant to disease and insects which eliminates the need to use pesticides, and require little or no watering or fertilization once established.



Photo © Fotomem

Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)

Anise hyssop provides beautiful lavender blooms in late summer. This clumping southwestern PA native perennial grows 2 – 4 feet tall and thrives in full sun and a variety of soils. Bees, hummingbirds and butterflies are all attracted to the nectar. The aromatic leaves can also be used in herbal teas.



Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum* species)

Mountain mints are native to southwestern PA, have a soothing minty fragrance and can be used in teas. Growing up to 3 feet tall, they contain small white or light purple flowers. *Pycnanthemum virginianum* prefers full sun and soil that stays moist while *Pycnanthemum muticum* tolerates shadier spots with 4 – 6 hours of sun and average soil. Both offer nectar and attract a wide variety of pollinators.



Photo © Col Ford and Natasha

Bluestar (*Amsonia* species)

Bluestars are native to the United States and form clumps 2 – 3 feet tall and wide. Blue, star-shaped blossoms attract butterflies in the spring and bright yellow to orange, willow-shaped leaves stand out in the fall garden. Plant amsonia in full sun and well-drained soils. Two species that we recommend are eastern bluestar (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*) and Hubricht's bluestar (*Amsonia hubrichtii*).



Photo © Krzysztof Ziarnik, KenraizBergsma

Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*)

Rattlesnake master is an interesting native plant with spherical flower heads that rise up from tall stems. They can be found growing in the meadow communities of eastern and central North America. This tap rooted plant doesn't transplant well, so find a sunny site with dry to medium, well-drained soils and watch it self-seed! It attracts pollinators.



Photo © Physics_majors

Cinnamon Fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*)

This southwestern PA native fern gets its specific epithet cinnamomeum from the fertile fronds that emerge in early spring with a fabulous orange color that deepens to a rich brown. The fiddleheads also emerge from the base of the plant and unfurl into large, erect sterile fronds that reach 2 – 3 feet. This fern is especially useful in moist garden soils and part- to full-shade. The fuzz on young fiddleheads is a favorite nesting material for birds.



Photo © Jorinx12

Spotted Beebalm (*Monarda punctata*)

This spreading beebalm is a gorgeous addition to your butterfly garden. Habituated to a large variety of soil conditions, you do not need to worry about this plant during extended droughts! This southwestern PA native plant has pretty light pink bracts which will give you long lasting color on their flower spikes throughout the summer. It is a close relative to culinary mint so the leaves smell wonderful.



Photo © Ben Wurst

False Indigo (*Baptisia australis*)

This upright plant can reach 3 feet in height. Blooming in early summer, its bright, lupine-like flowers spring from stalks that rise a foot above the plant. It makes a dense, shrub-like clump of very attractive blue-green foliage that stands up to heat and is large enough to use as a single specimen. False indigo prefers full sun and room to spread.



Photo © F.D. Richards

Threadleaf Tickseed (*Coreopsis verticillata*)

Threadleaf tickseed has thread-like green foliage and many bright, golden-yellow flowers during summer. It attracts butterflies and other pollinators and, if pruned occasionally, flowers will bloom into the fall. Clump-forming and slow-spreading, it will grow 8 – 12 inches high, and 18 – 32 inches wide. This perennial is easy to grow and loves full sun. Plant in average, well-drained soil.

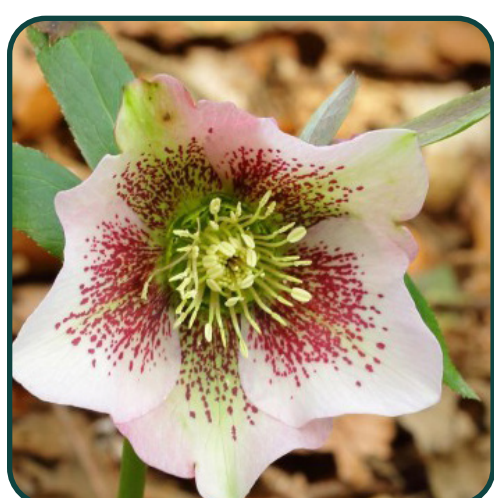


Photo © Dominicus Johannes

Lenten Rose (*Helleborus orientalis*)

This hardy shade perennial is known for its late winter interest, with white, cup-shaped flowers blooming in winter and early spring. It can grow 18 – 24 inches tall and 24 – 30 inches wide, slowly spreading. Thick, smooth, evergreen leaves are deer resistant. Grows best in rich, moist, well-drained soil, in part to full shade.



Photo © Nicholas A. Tonelli

Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)

A spring ephemeral, this early-blooming perennial, a southwestern PA native, has clusters of pink buds opening to light blue, trumpet-shaped flowers on upright plants in March or April. It is deer-resistant and is spectacular in mass plantings, but the foliage dies back by mid-summer. It grows best in light shade and moist soil.

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