



Evergreen Landscapes & Supply

Plantings for Elk and Altitude

Beautiful as they may be, deer and elk provide yet another challenge to the high country gardener. Whether you intend on growing only one tree or flower, or an extensive landscape, you will most likely be visited (on a regular basis!) by deer and/or elk that assume you've created a salad bar just for them.

The plants that deer and elk eat will vary between seasons and is influenced by the density of their population, the availability of native forage, and weather conditions. At the end of particularly dry or cold winters, and during hot and dry summers, animals will eat just about anything. Also, they may eat a plant they ordinarily wouldn't like if it has been recently planted or if it has an abundance of tender, new growth caused by over-watering or heavy fertilization. Sometimes plants eaten to the ground in one area by one group of animals may be ignored in another area by other animals. Some individuals may love to eat all you have, while others may be more particular. Even plants they generally don't like may be nibbled by many as they are testing the palatability of them. Spring and late summer/early autumn typically sees the most damage to plants, but most all unprotected plants are susceptible at all times.

Beyond the munching, a bull elk or buck can cause great damage to valued trees with their antlers during rutting season in fall. Trees that may be relatively safe from eating can be their favorites to "practice fight" with. Commonly used trees include Colorado Blue Spruce, Bristlecone Pines and Sandbar Willows. In addition, bark damage is seen in spring when they're rubbing the "velvet" off their antlers. Elk are also known to snap branches of trees and shrubs, pull plants out of the ground, and step on others. The only way to protect plants from this type of damage is to fence off the plant/s entirely. This can be done individually for specimen plants, or collectively for an extended area. Fencing is also a carefree way to protect flowerbeds or vegetable gardens en masse.

If fencing is not an option for you, there is a variety of deterrents that are effective to minimize munching. Please ask us about the choices available. The use of a spray deterrent on newly installed "deer/elk resistant plants" can help prevent the experimental nibbling that may occur just because there's a new ingredient at the "salad bar." There are plants that deer and elk tend to avoid, and a very few that we have never seen them eat (but that list is getting smaller each year!)

Key to the Plant List

Botanical Name – The first name listed is the genus; a group of closely related plants. The second name, if given, is the species, which further narrows the choice. If no species is listed, the abbreviation "spp." will indicate that most

species in that genus are deer/elk resistant.

Maximum Elevation Guidelines – The information given is intended as an approximate guide and should not be considered to be definitive.

Definitions:

Deciduous – a plant that drops its leaves in the fall or winter and grows new leaves each growing season.

Evergreen – a plant that retains its leaves for more than one annual cycle of growth.

Semi-evergreen – a plant that retains at least some green foliage well into winter, sometimes shedding leaves only in cold climates.

The following plants are generally not preferred by deer or elk:

| PERENNIALS | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|--|
| Botanical Name | Common Name | Height (inches) | Exposure | Water Needs | Max. Elev. (feet) | Comments ("N" = Colorado Native Plant) |
| Achillea spp. | Yarrow | 12"-30" | S | Low | 9,000' | Easy, some spread aggressively |
| Aconitum spp. | Monkshood | 24"-36" | Sh-PtS | High | 9,000' | Poisonous; roots, leaves and seeds |
| Agastache spp. | Agastache | 24" | S | Low | 8,000' | Attracts hummingbirds |
| Alchemilla spp. | Lady's Mantle | 12"-18" | S-PtSh | Mod | 9,000' | Blooms July-August |
| Alyssum saxatile | Basket-of-gold | 12"-18" | S | Low | 8,000' | Cut back after bloom |
| Armeria spp. | Thrift or Sea Pinks | 6"-12" | S | Mod | 9,000' | Use in rock gardens, deadhead |
| Asclepias tuberosa | Butterfly Weed | 18"-30" | S | Low | 8,000' | Lean, sandy soil |
| Astilbe spp. | Astilbe or False Spirea | 18"-36" | Sh-PtS | Mod-High | 8,000' | Late season blooms |
| Berlandiera lyrata | Chocolate Flower | 8"-12" | S | Low | 7,500' | Long bloom |
| Centaurea montana | Bachelor Buttons or Mountain Bluets | 24" | S | Low | 8,500' | Long bloom |
| Centranthus ruber | Red Valerian or Jupiter's Beard | 18"-36" | S | Low | 9,000' | Long bloom, can reseed |

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|-------------------------|--------------------|---------|--------|-----|---------|---|
| Cerastium tomentosum | Snow-in-summer | 6"-12" | S | Low | 10,000' | Mow or shear after bloom |
| Convallaria majalis | Lily of the Valley | 6"-9" | Sh-PtS | Mod | 9,000' | Poisonous |
| Dicentra spp. | Bleeding Heart | 12"-36" | Sh-PtS | Mod | 9,000' | Easy; dwarf form is long blooming |
| Digitalis spp. | Foxglove | 18"-48" | Sh-PtS | Mod | 8,000' | Poisonous |
| Echinacea spp. | Coneflower | 18"-36" | S-PtSh | Low | 7,500' | Long, late season bloom |
| Echinops spp. | Globe Thistle | 30"-36" | S | Low | 7,000' | Interesting plant |
| Eryngium spp. | Sea Holly | 24"-30" | S | Low | 7,000' | Late bloom, reseeds, good accent to color |
| Euphorbia characias | Cushion Spurge | 18"-24" | S | Low | 9,000' | Reseeds, great fall color |
| Galium odoratum | Sweet Woodruff | 6"-10" | Sh-PtS | Mod | 9,500' | Nice groundcover |
| Iberis sempervirens | Candytuft | 6"-12" | S-PtSh | Mod | 8,500' | Bright white, spring blooms |
| Kniphofia spp. | Red Hot Poker | 24"-36" | S | Low | 7,500' | Bright colors |
| Lamium spp. | Dead Nettle | 4"-6" | Sh-PtS | Mod | 8,500' | Great groundcover |
| Lavandula angustifolia | Lavender | 12"-18" | S | Low | 8,500' | Dries well |
| Levisticum officinale | Lovage | 60" | S-PtSh | Mod | 8,000' | Easy celery substitute |
| Liatris spp. | Gayfeather | 18"-36" | S | Mod | 8,000' | Easy, late blooming |
| Limonium latifolium | Sea Lavender | 12"-24" | S | Low | 7,500' | Late blooming, dries well |
| Linum perenne | Blue Flax | 12"-24" | S-PtSh | Low | 9,500' | N is L. lewisii; reseeds, best in swaths |
| Lupinus spp. | Lupine | 18"-30" | S-PtSh | Mod | 9,000' | Showy spring blooms |
| Mentha spp. | Mint | 12"-24" | S-PtSh | Mod | 7,500' | Aggressive spreader, attracts bees |
| Monarda spp. | Bee Balm | 12"-48" | S-PtSh | Mod | 9,000' | Attracts hummingbirds |
| Nepeta spp. | Catmint | 12"-36" | S-PtSh | Low | 7,500' | Aggressive spreader, attracts bees |
| Paeonia officinalis | Peony | 24"-36" | S | Mod | 9,000' | Long lived, takes several years to mature |
| Perovskia atricplifolia | Russian Sage | 36"-60" | S | Low | 7,500' | Shear low in spring |
| Phlox subdulata | Creeping Phlox | 4"-6" | S | Low | 8,500' | Semi-evergreen groundcover |
| Polemonium spp. | Jacob's Ladder | 12"-36" | Sh-PtS | Mod | 8,500' | Fern-like foliage |

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|----------------------------|--|---------|--------|----------|--------|---|
| Potentilla verna | Cinquefoil, Creeping | 2"-4" | S | Low | 8,500' | Spreading groundcover |
| Pulmonaria spp. | Lungwort | 8"-18" | Sh | Mod | 8,000' | Very early bloom, nice leaves |
| Ratibida columnifera | Mexican Hat or Prairie Coneflower | 18"-24" | S | Low | 7,500' | N; good for natural gardens |
| Rheum spp. | Rhubarb | 30"-48" | S | Mod | 8,500' | Likes rich soil, stalks are edible leaves are poisonous |
| Rudbeckia hirta | Black-Eyed Susan | 6"-48" | S | Low | 8,000' | N; prolific blooms |
| Salvia spp. | Sage | 15"-30" | S | Low | 8,500' | Many varieties |
| Santolina chamaecyparissus | Lavender Cotton (silver-gray, not green species) | 18"-24" | S | Very Low | 7,500' | Semi-evergreen |
| Solidago spp. | Goldenrod | 12"-48" | S | Very Low | 7,500' | Late blooming |
| Stachys byzantina | Lamb's Ear | 6"-18" | S-PtSh | Low | 7,500' | Trim in December, reseeds |
| Tanacetum spp. | Tansy | 12"-36" | S-PtSh | Low | 8,500' | Covered in blooms |
| Thymus spp. | Thyme | 1"-12" | S | Low | 8,500' | Many varieties |
| Veronica spicata | Speedwell | 10"-18" | S-PtSh | Moderate | 8,500' | Upright spikes of blooms |
| Veronica spp. | Creeping Veronica | 1"-3" | S-PtSh | Low | 8,500' | Great low groundcover |
| (many) | Ferns, Hardy | 12"-48" | Sh | Mod-High | 9,000' | Some native |

ANNUALS

| Botanical Name | Common Name | Height (inches) | Exposure | Water Needs | Max. Elev. (feet) | Comments ("N" = Colorado Native Plant) |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|--|
| Ageratum houstonianun | Floss Flower | 5"-24" | S-PtSh | Moderate | N/A | Mounding |
| Bracteantha bracteata | Straw Flower | 12" | S | Low | N/A | Dries well |
| Centaurea cyanus | Bachelor's Button | 30" | S | Low | N/A | Long lasting cut flower |
| Cleome | Spider Flower | 36" | S-PtSh | Low | N/A | Fast growing |
| Cosmos bipinnatus | Cosmos | 36" | S | Low | N/A | Attracts butterflies |
| Lantana camara | Lantana | 36" | S | Moderate | N/A | Colorful blooms |

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|--------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|----------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| Limonium sinuatum | Statice | 24" | S | Low | N/A | Dries well |
| Lobularia maritima | Sweet Alyssum | 6" | S | Moderate | N/A | Mat forming |
| Nicotiana glauca | Flowering Tobacco | 24" | S-PtSh | Moderate | N/A | Wide assortment of colors |
| Salvia spp. | Annual Sage | 24" | S | Moderate | N/A | Attracts hummingbirds |
| Scaevola | Fan Flower | 12" | S | Moderate | N/A | Good for hanging baskets |
| Senecio cineraria | Dusty Miller | 24" | S | Moderate | N/A | Great contrasting foliage for color |
| Tagetes spp. | Marigold (French) | 8"-30" | S-PtSh | Moderate | N/A | Fast, easy color |
| Verbena x hybrida | Verbena | 18" | S | Moderate | N/A | Prefers heavy fertilization |

BULBS

| Botanical Name | Common Name | Height (inches) | Exposure | Water Needs | Max. Elev. (feet) | Comments ("N" = Colorado Native Plant) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|---|
| Allium spp. | Ornamental Onion | 8"-36" | S-PtSh | Moderate | Varies | Wide variety available |
| Chionodoxa luciliae | Glory of the Snow | 4"- 6" | S-PtSh | Moderate | 8,500' | Early blooming, blue and white flowers |
| Colchicum spp. | Autumn Crocus | 6"-12" | S-PtSh | Moderate | 8,500' | Also called Meadow Saffron |
| Crocus spp. | Crocus | 3"- 6" | S | Moderate | 9,000' | Species and giant sizes available |
| Fritillaria imperialis | Crown Imperial | 24"-36" | S | Low | 7,500' | Showy "upside-down" blooms |
| Fritillaria meleagris | Checkered Lily | 8"-12" | S-PtSh | Moderate | 9,000' | Unique, delicate looking, but tough |
| Muscari armeniacum or M. botryoides | Grape Hyacinth | 4"- 8" | S-PtSh | Low | 9,000' | Many varieties available |
| Narcissus spp. | Daffodil | 8"-20" | S | Low | 9,000' | Many, many varieties available |

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

| Botanical Name | Common Name | Height x Width (feet) | Exposure | Water Needs | Max. Elev. (feet) | Comments (“N” = Colorado Native Plant) |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|--|
| <i>Amorpha canescens</i> | Leadplant | 2-4' x 2-4' | S | Very Low | 8,500' | N; erosion control, purple and orange flowers |
| <i>Amorpha fruticosa</i> | Indigo Bush | 3-10' x 3-10' | S | Very Low | 8,500' | N; erosion control, purple and orange flowers, larger version of Leadplant |
| <i>Artemisia tridentata</i> | Big Western Sage | 3-6' x 3-6' | S | Very Low | 9,000' | N; other native Sages will work also |
| <i>Atriplex canescens</i> | Four-wing Saltbush | 5' x 5' | S | Very Low | 8,000' | N; erosion control, tolerates poor soil |
| <i>Berberis</i> spp. | Barberry | 2-6' x 2-6' | S | Moderate | 8,000' | Colorful foliage, thorns |
| <i>Caragana arborescens</i> | Siberian Pea Shrub | 10-15' x 6-10' | S | Low | 10,000' | Yellow spring flowers, good hedge |
| <i>Caryopteris incana</i> | Blue Mist Spirea | 3' x 2' | S | Low | 8,000' | Other cultivars available, late season blooms, attracts bees |
| <i>Chamaebatia millefolium</i> | Fernbush | 4-6' x 4-6' | S | Very Low | 8,500' | Southwest US Native; white flower clusters |
| <i>Chrysothamnus</i> spp. | Rabbitbrush | 2-6' x 2-6' | S | Very Low | 9,000' | N; late season blooms, tolerates poor soils |
| <i>Cotoneaster</i> spp. | Cotoneaster | 1-6' x 2-10' | S | Moderate | Varies | Shiny leaves, fall berries, many varieties |
| <i>Cytisus</i> | Broom | 1-5' x 1-5' | S | Low | 8,000' | Unusual texture |
| <i>Fallugia paradoxa</i> | Apache Plume | 3-5' x 3-5' | S | Very Low | 8,500' | N; White rose-like flowers followed by “plume” seed heads |
| <i>Genista</i> | Woadwaxen | 2' x 2' | S | Very Low | 8,000' | Covered in yellow blooms, long blooming |
| <i>Holodiscus dumosus</i> | Rock Spirea | 3-5' x 3-5' | S-PtSh | Very Low | 9,000' | N; Spring flower panicles |
| <i>Potentilla</i> spp. and all cultivars | Potentilla or Shrubby Cinquefoil | 2-5' x 2-5' | S | Low | 9,000'+ | N; Many cultivars available |
| <i>Shepherdia argentea</i> | Silver Buffaloberry | 3-12' x 3-12' | S | Very Low | 9,000' | N; Great alternative to Russian Olive |
| <i>Spiraea</i> cultivars | Spirea | 2-6' x 2-6' | S-PtSh | Moderate | 8,500' | Many cultivars, various bloom and foliage colors |

EVERGREEN SHRUBS

| Botanical Name | Common Name | Height x Width (feet) | Exposure | Water Needs | Max. Elev. (feet) | Comments ("N" = Colorado Native Plant) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|--|
| Arctostaphylos uva-ursi | Kinnikinnick or Bearberry | ¼' x 5' | Sh-PtS | Moderate | 10,000' | N; slow growing, transplants poorly from wild |
| Cercocarpus ledifolius | Curlleaf Mountain Mahogany | 4-15' x 4-12' | S | Very Low | 8,500' | N; semi-evergreen, deer DO eat our local native Mtn. Mahogany, C. montanus |
| Daphne spp. | Daphne | 2-4' x 2-4' | Sh-PtS | Moderate | 8,000' | Early, prolific, fragrant, blooms |
| Mahonia aquifolium | Oregon Grape Holly | 3-6' x 3-6' | Sh-PtS | Moderate | 8,000' | Red/Bronze fall color, must winter water |
| Mahonia repens | Creeping Grape Holly | 1-3' x 3' | Sh-PtS | Moderate | 9,000' | N; Red winter color, slow to establish |
| Microbiota decussata | Russian Cypress | 1' x 4' | Sh-PtS | Moderate | 9,000' | Soft foliage, bronze winter color |
| Opuntia compressa | Plains Prickly Pear | 1' x 4' | S | Very Low | 8,500' | N; yellow blooms |
| Picea pungens cultivars | Dwarf Colorado Blue Spruce | 2-15' x 2-10' | S or Sh | Moderate | 9,500' | Cultivars of native, varying habits |
| Taxus x media | Taunton Yew | 3' x 5' | Sh | High | 7,500' | Slow growing, poisonous berries |
| Yucca glauca | Yucca or Soapweed | 2' x 2' | S | Very Low | 9,000' | N; cream colored flower spikes |

DECIDUOUS TREES

| Botanical Name | Common Name | Height x Width (feet) | Exposure | Water Needs | Max. Elev. (feet) | Comments ("N" = Colorado Native Plant) |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|---|
| Aesculus glabra | Ohio Buckeye | 25' x 25' | S | Very Low | 9,000' | Yellow/orange fall color |
| Celtis occidentalis | Hackberry | 50' x 50' | S | Low | 8,500' | N; shrubby tree, edible fruit |
| Crataegus crus-galli | Cockspur Hawthorn | 20' x 20' | S | Low | 8,000' | Good fall color, 1 ½" thorns, white spring flowers, persistent red "haws" |
| Crataegus ambigua | Russian Hawthorn | 20' x 20' | S | Low | 8,500' | Interesting branch formations, white flowers, |

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|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------|---|----------|--------|--|
| | | | | | | persistent red "haws", yellow fall color |
| Gleditsia triacanthos | Honeylocust | Varies | S | Low | 7,500' | Yellow fall color |
| Larix occidentalis | Western Larch or Tamarack | 60' x 30' | S | Mod-High | 9,000' | Intolerant of pollution, deciduous conifer |
| Larix decidua | European Larch | 80' x 30' | S | Mod-High | 9,000' | Deciduous conifer |
| Robinia neomexicana | New Mexico Locust | 20' x 15' | S | Very Low | 9,000' | N; thorns, fragrant pink flower panicles |

EVERGREEN TREES

| Botanical Name | Common Name | Height x Width (feet) | Exposure | Water Needs | Max. Elev. (feet) | Comments (“N” = Colorado Native Plant) |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|---|
| Abies concolor | White Fir | 50' x 30' | S-PtSh | Moderate | 9,500' | N; soft needles, can have blue tint |
| Abies lasiocarpa | Subalpine Fir | 80' x 20' | Sh-PtS | Moderate | 11,500' | N; narrow form |
| Juniperus scopulorum | Rocky Mountain Juniper | 30' x 20' | S | Very Low | 9,000' | N; irregular form, varies by specimen |
| Picea pungens | Colorado Spruce | 100' x 30' | S-PtSh | Moderate | 11,000' | N; color varies from green to blue |
| Pinus aristata | Bristlecone Pine | 20' x 20' | S | Very Low | 11,500' | N; slow growing, irregular habit |
| Pinus contorta | Lodgepole Pine | 60' x 20' | S-PtSh | Low | 11,500' | N; generally narrow |
| Pinus edulis | Pinyon Pine | 15' x 12' | S | Very Low | 7,500' | N; fragrant, edible seeds |
| Pinus ponderosa | Ponderosa Pine | 90' x 40' | S | Low | 9,000' | N; tends to shed lower branches with age |
| Pseudotsuga menziesii | Douglas Fir | 100' x 30' | S-PtSh | Moderate | 9,000' | N; open pyramidal shape |

VINES

| Botanical Name | Common Name | Height / Length (feet) | Exposure | Water Needs | Max. Elev. (feet) | Comments (“N” = Colorado Native Plant) |
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| Clematis spp. | Clematis | 6' - 12' | S-PtSh | Moderate | 8,000' | Many varieties available |
| Polygonum aubertii | Silverlace Vine | 20' - 40' | S-PtSh | Very Low | 8,000' | Very fast growing, fragrant white late summer flowers |

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303-674-4401