



Promoting Native Plants since 2003 Certified Women Owned Business Enterprise

RABBITS IN THE GARDEN

RABBITS!! So cute -- and yet so frustrating! If you are seeing sharp, clean angle cuts near the ground on your tender plants, yup – it's rabbit damage. They prefer tender new growth, but in winter will eat twigs and bark. A clean nip about 24" off the ground or snow level tells you they've been by. Their tooth marks are usually about 2 mm wide. Smaller marks are probably mice.

A physical barrier, even temporary, can help. Try a fence of galvanized wire mesh about 18"-24" tall. The mesh should be in 1" grid, with 6" buried beneath the ground. Attach the fence to posts with twist ties or plastic zip ties so you can easily remove, roll, and store it at the end of the season. Protect individual trees by encircling them with half-inch hardware cloth. It should stand about 24" above the anticipated snow levels.

Repellents can also be effective. Keep in mind that taste repellants protect only the parts of the plant they contact. In spring, when new growth is rapid, you'll need to re-apply to any fresh new growth.

It might help to eliminate some of their absolute favorite plants such as clover and apples. Their preferred habitat is a sunny, bluegrass lawn and their heaviest feeding periods are the hour or two after dawn and an hour after sunset.

It can't hurt to use plants that are considered 'rabbit resistant'. We offer no guarantees that rabbits will leave these plants completely alone. They are reported to be less bothered by rabbits. Your experience may differ.

Plants Reported to be Rabbit Resistant

Adiantum pedatum (Northern
maidenhair fern)
Agastache species
Allium species
Anemone species.

Aquilegia canadensis
Asarum species
Asclepias species
Aster species
Athyrium filix-femina (Lady Fern)

Baptisia australis : (Blue false indigo)
Betula species (birch)
Campsis radicans (trumpet vine)
Campanula species
Cercis canadensis (Redbud)
Clematis species
Coreopsis species (tickseed)
Cornus species (Dogwood)
Dicentra eximia (Bleeding heart)
Dryopteris marginalis : (Eastern wood fern)
Euonymus species
Euphorbia species
Filipendula (Queen-of-the-prairie)
Geranium maculatum (Wild Geranium)
Helianthus decapetalus (Ten petaled sunflower)
Helianthus microcephalus (Small woodland sunflower)
Heuchera. (coral bells)
Hydrangea (hydrangea)
Ilex opaca (American holly)
Iris (iris)
Kalmia latifolia (mountain laurel)
Veronicastrum virginicum (Culver root)
Viburnum species (Viburnum)

Liatris spicata (Spike gayfeather)
Liriodendron tulipifera (Tulip tree)
Lupinus species (lupines)
Monarda species
Penstemon species
Phlox subulate (Moss phlox)
Pinus species (Pine)
Polygonatum biflorum (Solomon's seal)
Polystichum acrostichoides (Christmas Fern)
Prunus species (Cherry)
Pycnanthemum species
Quercus species (oak)
Rhus species (sumac)
Ribes species (currant)
Rosa species [spiny only] (shrub rose)
Rudbeckia hirta (black-eyed Susan)
Sambucus species (Elderberry)
Sedum ternatum (Three-leaved stone crop)
Solidago species (goldenrod)
Spiraea species
Teucrium
Tiarella species