



*Promoting Native Plants since 2003 Certified Women Owned Business Enterprise*

## Rabbits in the Landscape

**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’. These plants are often strong scented, have hairy or textured leaves, or are mildly toxic. 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.

## PERENNIALS

<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	Anise Hyssop	<i>Heuchera species</i>	- Alumroot
<i>Allium species</i>	Nodding Onion	<i>Iris species</i>	- Iris - Dwarf Crested, Blueflag
<i>Amsonia species</i>	Bluestar	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	- Virginia Bluebells
<i>Anemone species</i>	Thimbleweed	<i>Monarda species</i>	- Beebalm, Wild Bergamot
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Eastern Columbine	<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>	- Wild Quinine
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Goatsbeard	<i>Penstemon species</i>	- Beardtongue
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	- Wild Ginger	<i>Phlox subulata</i>	- Moss Phlox
<i>Asclepias species</i>	- Milkweed	<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	- Solomon's Seal
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	- Northern Lady Fern	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	- Christmas Fern
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	- Wild False Indigo	<i>Pycnanthemum species</i>	- Mountain Mint
<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	- Blue Mistflower	<i>Sedum species</i>	- Stonecrop
<i>Dicentra eximia</i>	- Bleeding Heart	<i>Solidago species</i>	- Goldenrod
<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	- Leather, Eastern Wood Fern	<i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>	- Wood Poppy
<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	- Flowering Spurge	<i>Symphyotrichum species</i>	- Aster - EXCEPT New England and New York
<i>Filipendula rubra</i>	- Queen of the Prairie	<i>Tiarella species</i>	- Foamflower
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	- Wild Geranium		

## TREES, SHRUBS, AND VINES

<i>Campsis radicans</i>	- Trumpet Vine
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	- Eastern Redbud
<i>Clematis species</i>	- Clematis, Virgin's Bower
<i>Cornus species</i>	- Dogwood
<i>Euonymus species</i>	- Strawberry Bush
<i>Hydrangea species</i>	- Hydrangea - Smooth, Oakleaf
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	- American Holly
<i>Juniperus species</i>	- Juniper
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	- Mountain Laurel
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	- Tulip Poplar
<i>Pinus species</i>	- Pine
<i>Prunus species</i>	- Plum, Cherry
<i>Quercus species</i>	- Oak
<i>Rhododendron species</i>	- Rhododendron, Azalea*
<i>Rhus species</i>	- Sumac
<i>Rosa species</i>	- Rose - Pasture, Prairie, Swamp
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	- American Elderberry
<i>Spiraea species</i>	- Steeplebush
<i>Viburnum species</i>	- Viburnum, Witherod

\*Rabbits will nibble young Azaleas, so they may need to be caged until established. Azaleas are toxic to rabbits

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**6 Reasons to Use Native Plants in the Landscape**  
**Provides beauty and four seasons of interest**  
**Saves on water and fertilizer**  
**Reduces disease**  
**Attracts beneficial insects**  
**Provides food for songbirds and butterflies**  
**Restores and balances the ecology of Lehigh Valley**

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