



GROW

Home, Garden & Outdoors

DON'T FEED THE DEER

Landscaping options that don't serve as a buffet for wildlife

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Deer and elk can eat up a landscaping project in minutes. It's like you planted candy in your yard just for them. And you did. Where else are they going to find these tasty plants?

There are plenty of recommendations for deer repellent, from linen bags filled with human hair hanging from your trees to blood meal scattered on the ground. And these methods can be effective in the short term — until the deer get used to the smell.

Your best bet is a high fence — 8 feet high is recommended, with a top that slants outward at a 45-degree angle.

You know, like a prison fence. This may not be the look you were going for.

A lower fence and a yappy dog may fit your plans much better, but then there's the noise complaint factor.

If you look around the county you will see many variations on the theme of tall fence, and some of them are



Alder Slope Nursery features this more palatable answer to tall fencing. The wood fence is about 6.5 feet high and has a light and airy feel. Inside, Randy Slinker can grow whatever he wants, including a huge Virginia Creeper.

Photos by Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

surprisingly pleasing.

There also is the option of putting your tasty flowers in hanging pots and hanging them high on your porch. You'll see a lot of this strategy in play in Wallowa County.

Other people just consider deer part of their scenery, take a philosophical view to their

snacking and don't mind replanting.

For those who want real outdoor landscaping without a prison fence there are some "deer-resistant" landscaping options.

The staff at our local Oregon State University Extension Service is wary of using the

term "deer-proof," and Randy Slinker of Alder Slope Nursery just laughed when asked about "deer-proof" plants.

That said, there are plants that deer generally do not bother, and some folks plant those at the edge of the property with their more tasty plants around the porch —



Alder Slope Nursery owner Randy Slinker recommends this flowering shrub if you want a truly deer-resistant option. This is a Potentilla creeping shrub that blooms yellow all summer.

hoping to limit deer foraging that way.

Here are a few hardy and pretty plants that deer do not seem to like. That's no guarantee they won't try them, but they probably won't put them on their favorites list. And your farmer neighbor may be offering a better spread of alfalfa or grain.

Flowers deer don't prefer include: Columbine (Aquilegia), Pinks (Dianthus), Bleeding Heart (Dicentra), Foxglove (Digitalis), Sunflower (Helianthus), Helibore (Helleborus), Iris and Tulip and Daffodil (Narcissus), and Lavender (Lavendula).

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Here's an example of a lilac bush doing well in a location with a heavy deer population. This Japanese Tree Lilac (Syringa reticulata) has proven resistant for many years. Now, "it's too tall for them," said Alder Slope Nursery owner Randy Slinker,

State irrigation program receives national award

Wallowa County Chieftain

PORTLAND — Energy Trust of Oregon and Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) recently announced that their Irrigation Modernization Program received the 2016 State Leadership in Clean Energy Award given by the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA).

The national award recognizes the coordinated and comprehensive approach developed by Energy Trust and FCA to help irrigation districts and the farmers they serve develop modern irrigation systems that can save billions of gallons of water annually. Oregon irrigators rely on 100-year-old, open-irrigation canals, which typically draw water from nearby rivers and other wa-

ter sources. This method of irrigation results in a large amount of water evaporating and/or leaking from the canal before reaching agricultural crops.

The Irrigation Modernization Program helps irrigation districts find the funding and resources they need to create state-of-the-art irrigation systems that replace open canals with pipes, saving water and leaving more

water in-stream for fish and wildlife. Pressurized pipes allow irrigators to remove pumps, which saves electricity, maintenance and replacement costs and enables farmers to upgrade to more water-efficient irrigation systems. Excess pressure in water on its way to delivery on farm can also be used to generate hydropower.

"The work done by the Farmers

Conservation Alliance is a powerful example of how irrigation modernization can address multiple challenges and provide multiple benefits," said Sen. Jeff Merkley. "The potential exists over the next decade for irrigation districts across the state to upgrade to more modern infrastructure, saving

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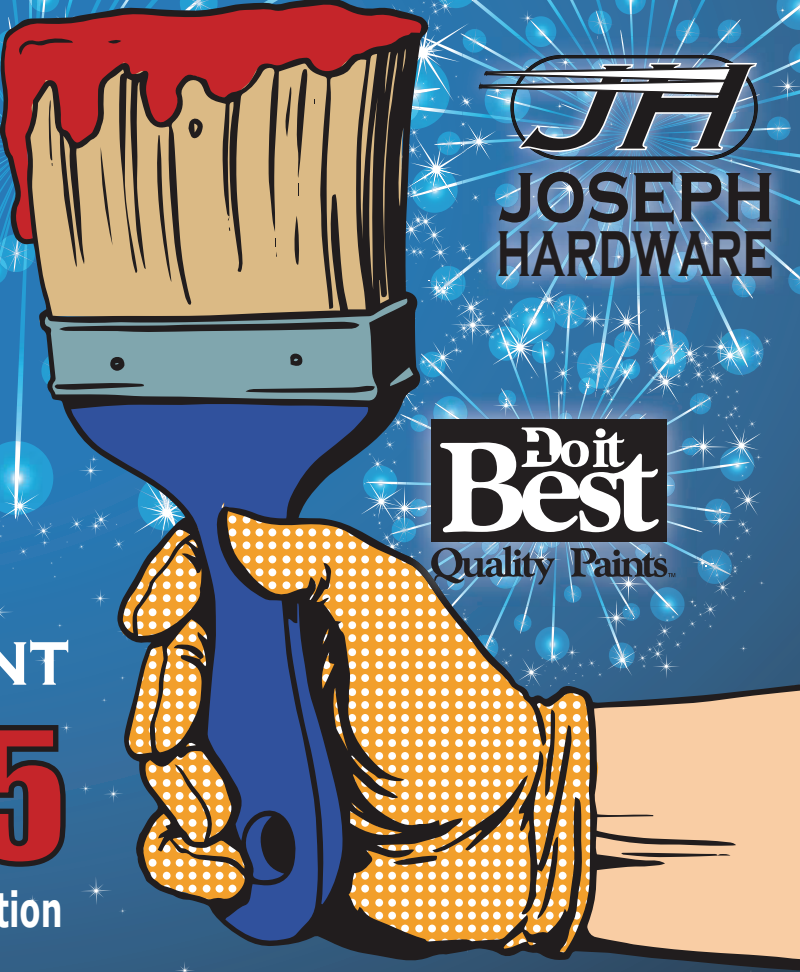
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