

## PROTECTING TREES FROM ANTLERS

In the autumn, deer can harm young trees when they rub antlers against the tree bark during mating season. To protect a small tree, place a piece of corrugated plastic drain pipe around the trunk. Drain pipe is inexpensive and available at hardware and home improvement stores. Just buy a section of pipe that is high enough to reach from the ground to the lowest branch. Cut the pipe down the entire length and pry it open and place it around a tree.

The drain pipe will also protect your trees against sunscald during the winter. You can either remove the pipe in the early spring or you can leave it on year-round. If you opt to leave the pipe around the tree year-round, keep checking on the tree's growth. Remove the pipe when it's snug around the tree or the tree diameter reaches 6 inches; otherwise, the pipe will strangle the tree. (If you wrap trees with paper tree wrap, you must remove the wrap by April or May. Paper tree wrap in warm weather creates a moist, warm area that attracts insects and fungus.)

## FEEDING THE DEER VIOLATES THE LAW

Because of the landscape damage and the rising incidence of dangerous car/deer collisions, St. Louis Park City ordinance prohibits individuals from intentionally feeding deer on either private or public property. Feeding deer attracts them away from their normal habitat; it also attracts raccoons which harbor diseases and parasites.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact -

City of St. Louis Park

Environmental Coordinator

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# Deer & Our Neighborhoods

*Deer have become a fact of life in urban areas. While some people enjoy the presence of deer in and around their yards, others are dismayed by the costly damage to their trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables.*

Because native plants are scarce and agriculture crops are not available, the home landscape has become a major food source for deer. Those beautiful plants you bought and lovingly planted can be gracing your yard one day and gone the next. Here are some suggestions to protect your plants.

Parks and Recreation Department

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## FLOWERS

### Least Likely to be eaten

|               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Bergamont     | Lily of the Valley |
| Butterflyweed | Milkweed           |
| Daffodils     | Mint Tansy         |
| Goldenrods    | Rosemary           |
| Joe Pye Weed  | Thyme              |
| Lavender      | Yarrow             |

### Most Likely to be eaten

|            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| Daylillies | Roses           |
| Geraniums  | Tulips          |
| Hosta      | Violets         |
| Impatiens  | Most vegetables |
| Lillies    |                 |

## SHRUBS

### Least Likely to be eaten

|             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Barberry    | Lilacs              |
| Boxwood     | Nannyberry Viburnum |
| Coralberry  | Potentilla          |
| Cotoneaster | Snowberry           |
| Forsythia   | Spirea              |
| Honeysuckle | Sumac               |
| Junipers    |                     |

### Most Likely to be eaten

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| Arborvitae | Dogwood      |
| Arrowwood  | Euonymus     |
| Viburnum   | Serviceberry |

## TREES

### Least Likely to be eaten

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Ash          | Hawthorn     |
| Black Locust | Honey Locust |
| Coffeetree   | Oak          |
| Elm          | River Birch  |
| Hackberry    |              |

### Most Likely to be eaten

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| Apple      | Crabapple    |
| Balsam fir | Douglas fir  |
| Basswood   | Maples       |
| Cedars     | Mountain Ash |

## PLANTING STRATEGIES

To reduce the likelihood of extensive landscape damage, try planting trees, shrubs and flowers that are less attractive to deer. Be aware, however, that a hungry deer will eat almost anything.

## PROTECTING YOUR PLANTS

Chemical repellants or fencing offers the most effective protection against deer. Motion detector lights and sound alarms are not effective in deterring deer.

### Repellants –

Repellants are liquids or powders that have an odor or taste that is offensive to deer. Repellants are likely to reduce the damage caused by deer; however, some damage may still occur if deer are very hungry. Repellants can be purchased at most nurseries and hardware stores.

**Hinder:** This is a liquid odor repellant that you spray on plants. Because it washes off after a rainfall and lawn sprinkling, repeated application is needed. Hinder is approved for use on food crops and ornamental plants.

**Deer-Away/BGR:** This is an odor repellant that resists washing off and, under normal circumstances, will protect your plants for about two months. The spray is available in both liquid and powder (you mix with water) form. This repellant is not approved for use on any plant intended to be eaten by humans.

**Christmas Tree Guard:** This “forest friendly” spray provides long-term protection to trees without harming animals or the environment. It will not wash off in rain or snow and is not susceptible to ultra-violet degradation.

**Protek Clips:** These are very small stakes you place in the ground or clip onto leaves. The clip has a strong garlic capsule inside and will protect plants for one season.

**Home Remedies:** These are not always reliable; however, you could try placing human hair (available from hair styling salons), dog hair (available from dog groomers) or unwrapped soap in mesh bags and hanging the bags 25 to 30 inches above the ground.

**Not Recommended:** Blood meal, hot sauce, and these products: Magic Circle, Ropel, and Thiram. These have not been proven to be effective deer repellants.

### Fencing –

Although an adult deer can easily jump a 6 foot fence, homeowners can try fencing vegetable gardens. City ordinance limits fences in residential neighborhoods to six feet high in backyards and 42 inches in front yards. Please remember that a permit is required to install a fence and all City ordinance requirements must be followed. For details on fence requirements, check the City’s website at [www.stlouispark.org](http://www.stlouispark.org).

