

## LYME DISEASE

# Deer and Your Yard: White-Tail Deer

### Are deer and other wildlife eating your flowers, scrubs and trees?

Connecticut's landscape provides an ideal food source for many types of wildlife, particularly the white-tailed deer. The number of deer in Connecticut has increased from 12 deer in 1900, to an estimated 76,000 deer in 2000. New London County has the 4th highest deer population in Connecticut. Along with the growing deer population, Connecticut has become home to an escalating deer tick population.

### Deer and Deer Ticks:

Deer play a critical role in the reproductive capacity of the deer tick. They are the preferred host for the adult female tick. After feeding, female ticks may lay up to 1,500 eggs. Studies have demonstrated that the size of the deer tick population is directly related to the size of the deer population.

### Deer Behavior:

Deer live at the edge of the woods, where they can find shrubs and other small plants to eat. They browse a variety of flowers, trees and shrubs, commonly used by homeowners to landscape their properties. Landscaped yards provide deer with an ideal food source – “a deer banquet.” Deer quickly become adapted to noises, lights and other attempts by homeowners to discourage them. Sprays, soaps and other repellents can be used on plants to deter deer. Repellents are usually odor or taste-based products. While effective, these must be applied often to protect new growth.

### Suggested Deer Resistant Plantings (continued from inside)

#### Bulbs, Corms and

#### Other Plants:

Daffodil (Narcissus)  
Hens & chicks  
(Sempervivum)  
Hyacinths (Hyacinthus)  
Iris (Iridaceae)  
Ornamental chives  
(Allium)  
Snowdrops (Galanthus)

#### Vines:

Wisteria (Wisteria)  
Virginia creeper  
(Parthenocissus)

No plant is completely deer resistant. The preferences for certain plants can change from herd to herd and from season to season. Susceptibility depends on deer density and availability to other food sources.

Consult your local garden store to learn about the toxicity of plants.

### Join the Lyme Disease Prevention Effort

The success of the Lyme Disease Prevention Program depends on participation of residents of East Lyme, Groton, Ledyard, New London, Waterford and surrounding communities. For more information please contact the Ledge Light Health District.



## Ledge Light Health District

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# Protect yourself from Lyme Disease

## TIPS ON DEER RESISTANT LANDSCAPING



### Community Lyme Disease Prevention Project Ledge Light Health District

Funded by the CT Department of Public Health and  
the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



# Landscaping and Tick Control

Methods for keeping deer and deer ticks from entering your yard

One component of a strategy to reduce your risk of Lyme Disease is not to attract deer to your yard. Focus your efforts on reducing tick numbers, particularly in areas of your property you commonly use. Create a "tick safe zone." Increase light and reduce dampness. Prune trees, clear brush, and remove leaf litter. Consider planting deer resistant plants and shrubs.

## Physical Barriers

Fencing can be used to control nuisance deer on your property. Deer fencing, typically 6-8 feet in height can be very successful in protecting large garden beds or even entire properties. There are a variety of fences that can be installed, such as an electric or nylon mesh fence. The type of fence used is determined by the deer density.

## Plant Selection

Damage to ornamental plants by deer has increased during the past decade. Browsing damage may be reduced by selecting less-preferred plants or by establishing susceptible plants in protected areas. Designing deer resistance into your landscaping plans is another approach to deterring deer.

## Suggested Deer Resistant Plantings

### Annuals:

- Alyssum (Lobularia)
- Dusty Miller (Senecio)
- Forget-me-not (Myosotis)
- Marigold (Tagetes)
- Nasturtium (Tropaeolum)
- Pansy (Viola)
- Sage (Salvia)
- Spiderflower (Cleome)
- Verbena (Verbena)
- Vinca (Catharanthus)

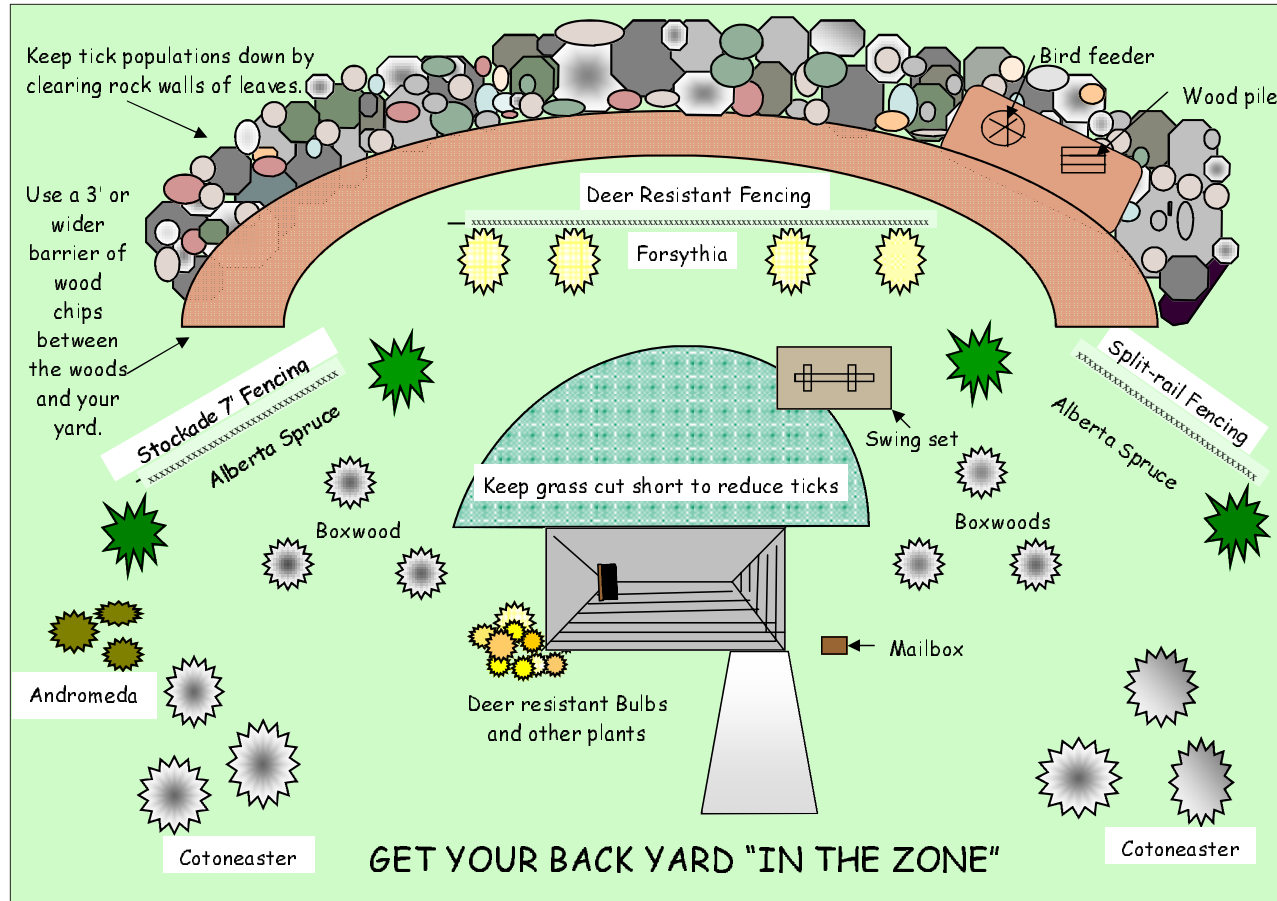
- Lavender (Lavandula)
- Lily of the Valley (Convallaria)
- Mayapple (Podophyllum)
- Mint (Mentha)
- Monkshood (Aconitum)
- Oregano (Origanum)
- Poppy (Papaver)
- Rhubarb (Rheum)
- Russian Sage (Perovskia)
- Silvermound (Artemisia)
- Thyme (Tymus)
- Yarrow (Achillea)

### Perennials:

- Beebalm (Monarda didyma)
- Bleeding Heart (Dicentra)
- Catmint (Nepeta)
- Columbine (Aquilegia)
- Foxglove (Digitalis)
- Goldenrod (Solidago)
- Lady's Mantle (Alchemilla)
- Lamb's Ears (Stachys)

### Shrubs and Trees:

- Andromeda (Pieris Japonica)
- Boxwood (Buxus)
- Butterfly bush (Buddleia)
- Cotoneaster (Cotoneaster)
- Leucothoes (Leucothoe)
- Spirea (Spiraea)
- Spruce (Picea)
- Weigela (Weigela)



(continued on back)

