

# Deer Resistant Native Plants for Keowee Key

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# Suggested Plants for Keowee Key

have these criteria:

- **Deer resistant**
- **Native to this area**
- **Beneficial to wildlife**
  - **Food**
  - **Shelter**
  - **Place to raise young**



# Deer Resistant Plants



What does  
“deer resistant”  
really mean?



Deer eating  
acorns



# Deer resistant does NOT mean deer proof!

*Deer resistant* means that **deer prefer not to eat them.**

Common characteristics of plants that deer prefer not to eat include:

- **Plants with thorny or prickly leaves or stems**
- **Plants with strong scents and pungent tastes**
- **Plants that are poisonous, or produce a thick, latex-like sap**
- **Plants with hairy leaves**

# Why NATIVE plants?

- **Attract pollinators, including butterflies, bumblebees, honeybees, dragon flies, birds. Our yards become alive!**
- **Require less water, once established. Easy to grow!**
- **No need for harmful, dangerous chemicals or pesticides**
- **Resist mold, mildew, insect pests**
- **Produce more nectar and pollen than modern hybrids**
- **Native plants function in harmony with native animals.**



# Native plants in my yard



Monarch on swamp sunflower



Swallowtail on Joe Pye Weed



Bumblebee on native milkweed



# Plants that are: *deer resistant AND native*

## ▪ LARGE TREES:

- We live in an oak-hickory forest. Most of us have:
  - Oak (Southern Red Oak, Black Oak, White Oak)
  - Hickory (Mockernut)
  - Pine (Virginia, Loblolly, Shortleaf)
- You also probably have some of these:
  - Tulip poplar
  - Sourwood
  - Black Tupelo
  - Maple
  - Eastern Red Cedar
  - Sweet Gum
  - American Beech
  - Chestnut
  - Southern Magnolia

*If you want to add large trees, these are good choices.*



Plants that are: *deer resistant AND native*

## LARGE TREES AUTUMN COLOR

Black Tupelo leaf



Sourwood tree



Maple  
tree



## Plants that are: *deer resistant AND native*

### SMALL TO MEDIUM SIZE TREES

- Dogwood
- Red Buckeye
- Serviceberry
- American Holly
- Hawthorn
- Paw Paw (smelly flowers, host for Zebra Swallowtail)



Dogwood



Red Buckeye



# Plants that are: *deer resistant AND native*

## SHRUBS

- Sweet Pepperbush
- Fetterbush
- Fothergilla
- Inkberry Holly
- Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
- St. John's Wort
- Mountain Laurel
- Virginia Sweetspire
- New Jersey Tea
- Viburnum
- Carolina Allspice
- Native Azaleas (next slide)

Mountain Laurel



St. John's Wort



Sweet Pepperbush





# Plants that are: *deer resistant AND native*

## NATIVE AZALEAS

Common names: Oconee Azalea, Piedmont Azalea  
(moderate deer resistant; highly sought-after)

Colors range: deep orange, yellow-orange to pink

Blooms in late March/early April

Early POLLEN source for bumblebees, butterflies,  
hummingbirds (tubular flower)

Stamens (male flower parts) long and showy

Deciduous shrub; perfect for woodland garden and naturalizing

Prefers acidic soil; pH of 5.2-5.8

(Add composted pine bark while planting, not too much potting soil)

Fertilize only in spring/early summer with extended-  
release types having nutrients in the 2-1-1 ratio.

Species for this area: ORANGE SHADES: R. flammeum, R. calendulaceum  
(tall), R. alabamense (most fragrant), PINK: R. canescens, R. periclymenoides



Rhododendron  
canescens



Rhododendron  
flammeum



Rhododendron  
flammeum



Rhododendron  
flammeum



# Plants that are: *deer resistant AND native*

In general, the categories of **FERNS** and **GRASSES** are deer resistant!

## FERNS

- Southern Maidenhair
- Lady Fern
- Holly Fern
- Cinnamon Fern
- Christmas Fern
- Southern Shield Fern
- Royal Fern (moist soil)

Christmas Fern



Southern Maidenhair



Southern Shield



# Plants that are: *deer resistant AND native*

**As a general guideline, the categories of ferns and grasses are deer resistant!**

## GRASSES

Pink Muhly Grass

Little Bluestem (Big Bluestem, also)

River Oats/Sea Oats

Indian Grass

Switch Grass

Fountain Grass



Pink Muhly Grass



Indian Grass



Little Bluestem



# Plants that are: *deer resistant AND native*

Select evergreen or deciduous. Select aggressive or gentle climbers. Choose wisely!

## VINES

**Carolina Jessamine (SC state flower!)** (Evergreen)

**Crossvine** (*Bignonia capreolata*) (Evergreen)

**Virginia Creeper**  
(*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) (Multi-season interest)

**Trumpet Creeper/Trumpet Vine**  
(*Campsis radicans*) (Attracts hummingbirds)

**Carolina Coralbead/Moonseed**  
(*Cocculus carolinus*)

**Purple Passionflower/Passionvine/Maypop**  
(*Passiflora incarnata*) (Host for Gulf Fritillary & Zebra Longwing butterflies)

**Dutchman's Pipevine** (moderately deer resistant;  
host plant for Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly)

**Clematis** (*Clematis virginiana* or *Clematis crispa*. HINTS: Clematis needs cool roots, protection from cold winds, medium moisture, loamy soil)

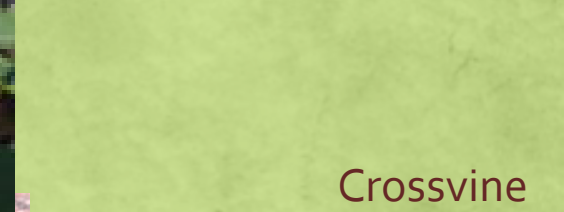
Carolina Jessamine



Purple Passionflower



Crossvine



Pipevine Swallowtail laying eggs





# Plants that are: *deer resistant AND native*

Evergreen, deer resistant, native species, some species with showy flowers

## GROUND COVERS

### Pachysandra

(*Pachysandra procumbens*)

### Green and Gold (yellow flower)

(*Chrysogonum virginianum*)

Note: Carolina Green and Gold a.k.a.

*Chrysogonum virginianum* var. *brevistolon* )

### Partridgeberry (white flower, red berry)

(*Mitchella repens*) Note: see at White Water Falls

### Wild Ginger

(*Asarum canadense*)

Green and Gold



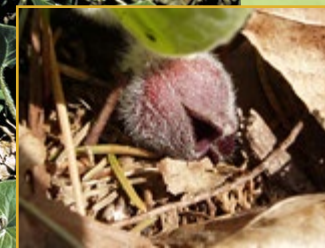
Pachysandra



Partridgeberry



Wild  
Ginger





# Plants that are: *deer resistant AND native*

## FLOWERS FOR SUN

- Coneflower, purple
- Black-eyed Susan
- Butterfly Weed (orange)
- Common Milkweed
- Indian Blanket Flower
- Culver's Root (tall; sun or pt. shade)
- New York Ironweed (tall)
- Swamp Sunflower (tall)
- Common Yarrow
- Monarda, purple
- Beardtongue (Penstemon digitalis)
- Cardinal Flower
- Gayfeather/Blazing Star (Liatris spicata)
- Obedient Plant
- Autumn Sage (hummingbirds)
- Coreopsis
- False Indigo (blue or yellow)
- Wild Indigo (white)



Indian  
Blanket  
Flower



Butterfly  
Weed



# Plants that are: *deer resistant AND native*



Joe Pye  
Weed



Indian  
Pink

## FLOWERS FOR SHADE

- Joe Pye Weed
- Indian Pink
- Lyre Leaf Sage
- Wild Red Columbine
- Woodland Phlox
- Common Bluestar
- Heart-leaved Aster
- Mountain Aster
- Wood Aster
- Early Meadowrue
- Culver's Root (tall; sun or pt. shade)



# A few of my favorite sources for RESEARCHING:

- National Wildlife Federation Native Plant Finder Database, searchable, (Identify native plants that attract specific butterflies, moths and birds; OR see which butterflies, moths and birds are attracted to plants you have)

<https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/>

- National Audubon Society Database, searchable, (excellent for bird-specific plant choices)

<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>

- Carolina Yards Database, searchable, (includes deer-resistant criteria)

<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/carolinayards/plant-database/index.html#cypdb/>

- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Native Plants Database

<https://www.wildflower.org/plants/>

- South Carolina Native Plant Society, Native Plants for wildlife list, site specific

- Keowee Key webpage on National Wildlife Federation website, "Resources"

<https://www.nwf.org/CommunityWildlifeHabitat/Communities/Community/349>



# A few of my favorite sources for BUYING

- SC Botanical Garden semi-annual sale <https://www.clemson.edu/public/scbg/plant-sale>
- SC Native Plant Society semi-annual sale [www.scnps.org](http://www.scnps.org)
- Joyful Butterfly [www.joyfulbutterfly.com](http://www.joyfulbutterfly.com) (host or nectar; seeds or plants; excellent search features, small company, based in North Carolina)
- Wayside Gardens/Park Seed Company, based in South Carolina!
- Gardens of the Blue Ridge [www.gardensoftheblueridge.com](http://www.gardensoftheblueridge.com) (small, based in NC)
- Bluestone Perennials [www.bluestoneperennials.com](http://www.bluestoneperennials.com) (based in Ohio)
- American Meadows [www.americanmeadows.com](http://www.americanmeadows.com) (Perennials are grown in PA and NC)
- Prairie Nursery <https://www.prairienursery.com/> (based in Wisconsin)
- Nature Hills [www.naturehills.com](http://www.naturehills.com) (based in Omaha, Nebraska)



# YOU CAN HAVE A BEAUTIFUL YARD USING DEER RESISTANT, NATIVE PLANTS!

