

"Gopher Resistant" Plants

As yet, there are no good studies on the non-preference of one plant over another but there is plenty of informal input on the subject. The plants listed in the table below are "gopher-resistant" according to many home gardeners. That is, if other food is abundant, gophers will leave these plants alone. This does not mean that gophers never eat these plants -- only that gophers prefer other food if it's available.

Common name -----	Botanical name -----
Naked Ladies	Amaryllis
Fibrous Begonia	Begonia

Attractive foliage and flowers; cocktail series such as Vodka (red) is most popular but all are sun and heat tolerant if well-established in a prepared bed. One of the most popular bedding plants grown, Begonias flower from spring until frost. Colors range from white to pink to vivid red. Some varieties have bronze foliage and some green variegated with white. Some varieties are more sun tolerant than others.

Butterfly bush	Buddleja
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http://www.plantanswers.com/butterfly_plant.htm

Bottlebrush	Callistemon
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All Citrus

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/PATIOCITRUS/>

Foxglove	Digitalis
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Eucalyptus	Eucalyptus
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Euonymus

Euonymus

Ash

Fraxinus

Hydrangea

Hydrangea

Lantana

Lantana

http://www.plantanswers.com/garden_column/june02/june2.htm

Lavender

Lavandula

Mulberry

Morus

Heavenly Bamboo

Nandina

Daffodil

Narcissus

http://www.plantanswers.com/garden_column/aug03/5.htm

http://www.plantanswers.com/garden_column/oct_02/2.htm

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/flowers/bulbs2.html>

Catnip, Catmints

Nepeta

Nierembergia

Nierembergia

Oleander

Oleander

Penstemon

Penstemon

Avocado

Persea americana

Pomegranate

Punica granatum

Indian Hawthorn

Rhaphiolepis

Rosemary

Rosmarinus

Salvia

Salvia

http://www.plantanswers.com/salvia_arcadia.htm

Periwinkle

Vinca major

Periwinkle Vinca (Madagascar Periwinkle) *Catharanthus roseus* -- Excellent heat tolerant selection BUT should NEVER be planted where sprinkler irrigation is used AND should NEVER be planted before June 1 (July 1 is safer!) Mulching is HIGHLY recommended! ALWAYS TRY TO FIND THE 'CORA' SERIES since it is THE ONLY disease resistant variety on the market. Vincas (also called periwinkle) used to be the favorite annual flower in the United States. It blooms constantly until cold weather arrives, is generally deer-proof, qualifies as a xeriscape plant, and was not bothered by insects. Its popularity has been reduced, however, because it is very susceptible to a fungus disease – aerial phytophthora. The disease attacks the foliage and stems with the result that they "melt down" or die-and-shrivel unpleasantly.

If you cannot find the 'Cora' series of Vincas, you should take some precautions to prevent aerial phytophthora.

1. Aerial phytophthora is a fungus that requires moisture on the foliage to infect the plants, so wait until the humidity is relatively low to plant them. Mid-June is usually a good time.
2. Vincas do best when they are watered infrequently. Once every two weeks after they are established is usually plenty.
3. Water with drip irrigation or flooding the soil. Sprinkling overhead results in infected plants.
4. Mulch the Vinca bed to reduce the need for watering. The mulch also reduces splash from the soil. The disease organisms are in the soil.

5. Plant Vinca in full sun.

Do not confuse Catharanthus with the true Vincas, V. minor and V. Major, which are evergreen perennial ground covers.

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I would additionally try some of the deer resistant plants at:

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/publications/deerbest.html>

Further information can be found at:

<http://icwdm.org/handbook/rodents/PocketGophers.asp>

and information about how to build an owl (natural predator of gophers) can be found at:

<http://www.rain.org/~sals/barnowl.html>

If none of this works and you want to get VIOLET with the little devils, see:

<http://www.rodenator.com/videos.htm>

and

<http://www.garden-counselor-lawn-care.com/gopher-blaster.html>

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Information provided by H. Lynn Parsons--a natural-born KILLER!!!