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Got Deer? Guess What Is Not on the Menu

KENNETT SQUARE, PA (September 2020) - The number one question garden experts and garden retailers get asked is, "Is it deer resistant?"

While people enjoy many forms of backyard wildlife, it can be discouraging to have deer run amuck and eat much-loved and well-tended plants like they were in a salad buffet.

Bulbs to the Rescue

Many spring-flowering bulbs provide an exception to the rule. While tulips are indeed deer candy, there is a wide range of bulbs that are not on their menu.

These flower bulbs contain a bitter-tasting substance that no mammal finds tasty. Take that naughty squirrels!

Our Favorite Deer Resistant Bulbs

- Anemone – *Anemone blanda**
- Chequered fritillary - *Fritillaria meleagris*
- Crocus – *Crocus**
- Crown imperial - *Fritillaria imperialis*
- Daffodils – *Narcissus**
- Dwarf iris - *Iris reticulata**
- Glory-of-the-snow – *Chionodoxa**
- Grape Hyacinth – *Muscari**
- Grecian windflower - *Anemone blanda**
- Hyacinth – *Hyacinthus*
- Indian quamash - *Camassia*
- Nodding star-of-Bethlehem - *Ornithogalum nutans*
- Ornamental onion - *Allium*
- Spring starflower - *Ipheion uniflorum*
- Siberian squill - *Scilla siberica**
- Snowdrop – *Galanthus**
- Spanish bluebells – *Hyacinthoides hispanica*
- Spring starflower – *Ipheion uniflorum*
- Striped squill - *Puschkinia libanotica**
- Summer snowflake - *Leucojum*
- Winter aconite – *Eranthis hyemalis**

*Indicates bulbs that are appropriate for naturalizing

Happily, many of the deer-resistant bulbs are the same ones used for naturalizing. This naturalistic approach to gardening means planting bulbs in areas of the landscape that do not get tilled or worked. For instance, under trees and deciduous shrubs. These bulbs will multiply each year rewarding, you with an ever-increasing spring flower show.

Every story about deer resistant plants has to have this warning: if deer are hungry enough, they'll eat almost anything.

Flowerbulbs.com is a promotional agency for the flower bulb sector. Their goal is to educate and inspire new and experienced gardeners. They do not sell flower bulbs; they encourage consumers to visit their local independent garden centers. High-resolution images are available royalty-free when citing FlowerBulbs.com as the source.

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