



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Cooperative Extension



az2098c

August 2025

ARIZONA CENTRAL HIGHLANDS PLANT HERBIVORY SERIES

Rabbit Plant Resistance Ratings

Matt Halldorson, Mary Barnes, Chris Jones, Hattie Braun

While rabbits (*Sylvilagus* and *Lepus* species) are an important part of the Central Arizona ecosystem, their presence is often unwelcome to gardeners due to their propensity to destroy or consume plants. As the diets of these animals change with wild food availability, yearly precipitation, and temperature variations, it can be difficult to predict which plants will be appealing for consumption. Additionally, plants may be more desirable when they are young and/or well fertilized. Due to this variability, instead of creating a straightforward list of plants in which herbivory is described in a “yes” or “no” fashion, a survey of both the existing literature on the subject and first-hand community experience was conducted. The results from that survey are presented in this publication as a percentage of those responses, which may be used to infer probability of herbivory.

Some products and home remedies purport to repel and/or discourage rabbits, but the surest solution is to exclude wildlife from your garden using properly designed fences. For more information on fencing design, please see [AZ1855](#).

Materials and Methods

Data were collected from multiple sources (websites, social media and surveys), many of which also reported data from their own sources, though only tallied as a single response. The goal was to obtain herbivory data from previous research on rabbit and from Arizona residents and businesses with direct experience with the animals. “n” represents the number of data sources (see sources) who provided input; the larger the n value, generally the greater our confidence in the reported probability of damage, though as stated earlier, a single source could be an aggregate of several. Because animal behavior can vary based on several variables such as temperature and rainfall, these plant data have been categorized as “never to rarely damaged”, “sometimes damaged” or “frequently damaged”, with percentages based on the number of responses/sources for each plant.

Annual	% Probability of Damage		
	Never to Rarely Damaged %	Sometimes Damaged %	Frequently Severely Damaged %
Alyssum (<i>Alyssum</i> sp.) n=8	87.50%	12.50%	0.00%
Amaranth (<i>Amaranthus</i> sp.) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Angel Trumpet (<i>Datura wrightii</i>) n=11	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Arizona Popcorn Flower (<i>Plagiobothrys Arizonicus</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Balsam (<i>Impatiens</i> sp.) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Basil (<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>) n=7	71.43%	14.29%	14.29%
Begonia (<i>Begonia</i> sp.) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Borage (<i>Borage officinalis</i>) n=1	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Broccoli (<i>Brassica</i> sp.) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
California Poppy (<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>) n=14	71.43%	21.43%	7.14%
Chili pepper (<i>Capsicum annuum</i>) n=2	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%
Cleome (<i>Cleome hasslerana</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Corn (<i>Zea mays</i>) n=5	80.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Cornflower, Bachelor's button (<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>) n=4	75.00%	0.00%	25.00%
Cosmos (<i>Cosmos</i> sp.) n=3	66.67%	0.00%	33.33%
Cranesbill (<i>Geranium</i> sp.) n=8	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Cucumbers (<i>Cucumis sativus</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Dahlia (<i>Dahlia</i> sp.) n=5	80.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Dill (<i>Anethum graveolens</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Eggplant (<i>Solanum melongena</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Flowering Tobacco (<i>Nicotiana</i> sp.) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis scorpiodes</i>) n=4	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Annual continued	% Probability of Damage		
Plant Name & Number of Data Points	Never to Rarely Damaged %	Sometimes Damaged %	Frequently Severely Damaged %
Gazania, Colorado Gold (<i>Gazania</i>) n=4	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Gerbera Daisy (<i>Gerbera jamesonii</i>) n=1	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Gourd (<i>Cucurbitaceae</i>) n=3	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Heliotrope (<i>Heliotropum arborescens</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Icelandic Poppy (<i>Papaver nudicaule</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Impatiens (<i>Impatiens walleriana</i>) n=1	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Lantana (<i>Lantana</i> sp.) n=7	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Larkspur (<i>Delphinium</i> sp.) n=5	80.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Lobelia (<i>Lobelia</i> sp.) n=2	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Marigold (<i>Tagetes</i> sp.) n=11	72.73%	9.09%	18.18%
Melons (<i>Cucurbitaceae</i>) n=3	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%
Morning glory (<i>Ipomea</i> sp.) n=6	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Nasturtium (<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>) n=3	66.67%	0.00%	33.33%
Pansies (<i>Viola</i> sp.) n=9	22.22%	22.22%	55.56%
Peas (<i>Pisum sativum</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Petunia (<i>Petunia</i> sp.) n=8	75.00%	0.00%	25.00%
Pot marigold (<i>Calendula</i> sp.) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Potato (<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>) n=4	50.00%	25.00%	25.00%
Pumpkin (<i>Cucurbita</i> sp.) n=4	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Purslane (<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Salvia (<i>Salvia</i> sp.) n=13	84.62%	7.69%	7.69%
Snapdragon (<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>) n=10	80.00%	10.00%	10.00%
Spinach (<i>Spinacia oleracea</i>) n=5	40.00%	20.00%	40.00%
Squash (<i>Cucurbita</i> sp.) n=4	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Straw flower (<i>Helichrysum bracteatum</i>) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Summer squash (<i>Cucurbita pepo</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Sunflower (<i>Helianthus</i> sp.) n=12	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Sweet alyssum (<i>Lobularia maritima</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Sweet peas (<i>Lathyrus odoratus</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Tomato (<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>) n=10	70.00%	20.00%	10.00%
Verbena (<i>Verbena</i> sp.) n=10	90.00%	10.00%	0.00%
Viola (<i>Viola</i> sp.) n=6	16.67%	33.33%	50.00%
Zinnia (<i>Zinnia</i> sp.) n=8	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%

Biennial	% Probability of Damage		
Plant Name & Number of Data Points	Never to Rarely Damaged %	Sometimes Damaged %	Frequently Severely Damaged %
Foxglove (<i>Digitalis</i> sp.) n=7	85.71%	14.29%	0.00%
Hollyhock (<i>Alcea</i> sp.) n=12	58.33%	33.33%	8.33%
Sweet William (<i>Dianthus barbatus</i>) n=5	80.00%	20.00%	0.00%

Bulb	% Probability of Damage		
Plant Name & Number of Data Points	Never to Rarely Damaged %	Sometimes Damaged %	Frequently Severely Damaged %
Calla lily (<i>Zantedeschia</i> sp.) n=2	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Crocospia (<i>Crocospia</i> sp.) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Crocus (<i>Crocus</i> sp.) n=8	87.50%	12.50%	0.00%
Daffodil (<i>Narcissus</i> sp.) n=16	93.75%	6.25%	0.00%
Grape Hyacinth (<i>Muscari</i> sp.) n=6	50.00%	33.33%	16.67%
Hyacinth (<i>Hyacinthus</i> sp.) n=3	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Naked lady (<i>Hyacinthus</i> sp.) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Ornamental onion (<i>Alliums</i> sp.) n=8	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Snowdrops (<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Squill (Bluebells) (<i>Scilla</i> sp.) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Tulip (<i>Tulip</i> sp.) n=8	12.50%	62.50%	25.00%

Grass and Sedge	% Probability of Damage		
Plant Name & Number of Data Points	Never to Rarely Damaged %	Sometimes Damaged %	Frequently Severely Damaged %
Bamboo (<i>Bambusa</i> sp.) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Blue Fescue (<i>Festuca</i> sp.) n=7	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Deergrass (<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>) n=5	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Feather Reed Grass (<i>Calamagrostis</i> sp.) n=4	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Fountain grass (<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Little bluestem (<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Maiden grass (<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Ornamental grasses n=5	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Pampus grass (<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Sedge (<i>Scirpus lacustris</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Squirreltail grass (<i>Elymus elymoides</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Switch grass (<i>Panicum virgatum</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Groundcover	% Probability of Damage		
Plant Name & Number of Data Points	Never to Rarely Damaged %	Sometimes Damaged %	Frequently Severely Damaged %
Bugleweed, Carpet Bugle (<i>Ajuga</i> sp.) n=5	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Dead Nettle (<i>Lamium</i> sp.) n=4	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Ivy (<i>Hedera</i> sp.) n=1	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Japanese Spurge (<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lily of the valley (<i>Convallaria majalis</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lilyturf (<i>Liriope</i> sp.) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Periwinkle (<i>Vinca</i> sp.) n=5	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Plumbago (<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>) n=5	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga</i> sp.) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Siberian bugloss (<i>Bruneria macrophylla</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Sweet Woodruff (<i>Galium odoratum</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Vinca (<i>Vinca</i> sp.) n=8	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Wintercreeper (<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>) n=1	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

Perennial	% Probability of Damage		
Plant Name & Number of Data Points	Never to Rarely Damaged %	Sometimes Damaged %	Frequently Severely Damaged %
4 o'clock (<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>) n=10	80.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Agave (<i>Agave</i> sp.) n=10	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Anemone (<i>Anemone</i> sp.) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Anise Hyssop (<i>Agastache</i> sp.) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Artichoke, globe (<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Asparagus (<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>) n=3	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%
Aster (<i>Aster</i> sp.) n=14	92.86%	7.14%	0.00%
Astilbe (<i>Astilbe</i> sp.) n=5	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Basket of Gold (<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Bear Grass (<i>Nolina microcarpa</i>) n=11	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Beard tongue, Penstemon (<i>Penstemon</i> sp.) n=16	68.75%	25.00%	6.25%
Bee Balm (<i>Monarda</i> sp.) n=10	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Black Eyed Susan (<i>Rudbeckia</i> sp.) n=8	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Blackfoot daisy (<i>Melanpodium leucanthum</i>) n=5	80.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Blanket Flower (<i>Gaillardia</i>) n=14	85.71%	14.29%	0.00%
Bleeding heart (<i>Dicentra</i> sp.) n=5	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Perennial continued	% Probability of Damage		
Plant Name & Number of Data Points	Never to Rarely Damaged %	Sometimes Damaged %	Frequently Severely Damaged %
Blue Flax (<i>Linum perrene</i>) n=8	87.50%	0.00%	12.50%
Brittlebush (<i>Encelia farinosa</i>) n=5	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum</i> sp.) n=4	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Butterfly weed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>) n=4	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
California Fuchsia (<i>Zauschneria californica</i>) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Candytuft (<i>Iberis</i> sp.) n=7	57.14%	42.86%	0.00%
Carnation, Pinks (<i>Dianthus</i> sp.) n=3	66.67%	0.00%	33.33%
Catmint (<i>Nepeta</i> sp.) n=14	92.86%	7.14%	0.00%
Catnip (<i>Nepeta</i> sp.) n=6	83.33%	16.67%	0.00%
Chives (<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>) n=7	85.71%	14.29%	0.00%
Chocolate Flower (<i>Berlandiera lyrata</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Cholla (<i>Opuntia</i> sp.) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Chrysanthemum (<i>Chrysanthemum</i> sp.) n=4	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%
Clematis (<i>Clematis</i> sp.) n=4	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Columbine (<i>Aquilegia</i> sp.) n=10	90.00%	10.00%	0.00%
Comfrey (<i>Symphytum officinale</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Coneflower (<i>Echinacea</i>) n=8	62.50%	37.50%	0.00%
Coral Bells (<i>Heuchera</i> sp.) n=2	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Cornflower (<i>Centaurea montana</i>) n=4	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Crown Pink (<i>Lychnis coronaria</i>) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Currant, Gooseberry (<i>Ribes</i> sp.) n=7	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Daisies (<i>Asteraceae</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Dalea (<i>Dalea</i> sp.) n=5	80.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Daylily (<i>Hemerocallis</i> sp.) n=9	88.89%	0.00%	11.11%
Delphinium (<i>Delphinium</i> sp.) n=1	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Desert Spoon (<i>Dasyllirion</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Dusty Miller (<i>Senecio</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
English Ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>) n=5	80.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Euphorbia (<i>Euphorbia</i> sp.) n=11	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Evening primrose (<i>Oenothera</i> sp.) n=7	71.43%	28.57%	0.00%
Fairy Duster (<i>Calliandra</i> sp.) n=4	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%
False Indigo (<i>Baptisia australis</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Ferns (Many species) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Flax (<i>Linum</i> sp.) n=5	80.00%	0.00%	20.00%
Fleabane (<i>Erigeron</i> sp.) n=7	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Perennial continued	% Probability of Damage		
Plant Name & Number of Data Points	Never to Rarely Damaged %	Sometimes Damaged %	Frequently Severely Damaged %
Gayfeather (<i>Liatis</i> sp.) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Geranium (<i>Geranium</i> sp.) n=6	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Geranium (<i>Pelargonium</i> sp.) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Germander (<i>Teucrium</i> sp.) n=6	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Globe Thistle (<i>Echinops ritro</i>) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Gloriosa Daisy (<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Goldenrod (<i>Solidago</i> sp.) n=6	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Grape (<i>Vitis</i> sp.) n=4	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Hens & Chicks (<i>Sempervivum</i> sp.) n=7	85.71%	0.00%	14.29%
Herbs (except basil) (Many species) n=11	90.91%	9.09%	0.00%
Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera</i>) n=8	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Horehound (<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>) n=10	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Horseradish (<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Hosta (<i>Hostas</i> sp.) n=2	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Hummingbird Mint (<i>Agastache</i> sp.) n=8	87.50%	12.50%	0.00%
Hydrangea (<i>Hydrangea</i> sp.) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Ice plant (<i>Mesembryanthemum</i> sp.) n=2	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Iris (<i>Iris</i> sp.) n=20	90.00%	0.00%	10.00%
Jacob's Ladder (<i>Polemonium</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Jerusalem Sage (<i>Phlomis</i> sp.) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Joe Pye Weed (<i>Eupatorium</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Ladys' mantle (<i>Alchemilla</i> sp.) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lamb's ear (<i>Stachys byzantina</i>) n=12	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lavender (<i>Lavandula</i> sp.) n=20	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lavender Cotton (<i>Santolina</i> sp.) n=9	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Leek (<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lemon balm (<i>Melissa officinalis</i>) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lungwort (<i>Pulmonaria</i> sp.) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lupine (<i>Lupinus</i> sp.) n=8	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Meadow rue (<i>Thalictrum</i> sp.) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Mexican Hat (<i>Ratibida</i>) n=10	80.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Milkweed, whorled (<i>Asclepias</i> sp.) n=13	84.62%	15.38%	0.00%
Mint (<i>Mentha</i> sp.) n=10	90.00%	10.00%	0.00%

Perennial continued	% Probability of Damage		
Plant Name & Number of Data Points	Never to Rarely Damaged %	Sometimes Damaged %	Frequently Severely Damaged %
Mullein (<i>Verbascum</i> sp.) n=7	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Orange globe mallow (<i>Sphaeralcea munroana</i>) n=9	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Oregano (<i>Origanum</i> sp.) n=9	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Oriental Poppy (<i>Papaver orientale</i>) n=8	87.50%	0.00%	12.50%
Peony (<i>Paeonia</i> sp.) n=4	75.00%	0.00%	25.00%
Phlox, Moss pink (<i>Phlox</i> sp.) n=6	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Pincushin flower (<i>Scabiosa caucasica</i>) n=9	88.89%	11.11%	0.00%
Poppy (<i>Papaver</i> sp.) n=5	80.00%	0.00%	20.00%
Prairie zinnia (<i>Zinnia</i> sp.) n=4	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Prickly Pear (<i>Opuntia</i> sp.) n=8	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Primrose (<i>Primula</i> sp.) n=2	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Rain lily (<i>Zephyranthes</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Red yucca (<i>Hesperaloe</i>) n=11	81.82%	18.18%	0.00%
Red-hot-poker (<i>Kniphofia uvaria</i>) n=10	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Rhubarb (<i>Rheum rhabarbarum</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Rock cress (<i>Arabis caucasica</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Rosemary (<i>Rosmarinus officialis</i>) n=19	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Rue (<i>Ruta</i> sp.) n=3	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Sage (<i>Salvia</i> sp.) n=14	92.86%	7.14%	0.00%
Sand verbena (<i>Abronia</i>) n=5	80.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Sea holly (<i>Eryngium agavifolium</i>) n=2	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Sea thrift (<i>Armeria</i> sp.) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Sedum (<i>Sedum</i>) n=8	62.50%	12.50%	25.00%
Shasta daisy (<i>Leucanthemum x superbum</i>) n=3	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Snow-in-summer (<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>) n=6	83.33%	16.67%	0.00%
Soapwort (<i>Saponaria</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Society garlic (<i>Tulbaghia fragrens</i>) n=4	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Spanish broom (<i>Spartium</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Spearmint (<i>Mentha spicata</i>) n=5	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Speedwell, Veronica (<i>Veronica</i> sp.) n=5	80.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Spurge (<i>Euphorbia</i> sp. Except <i>Chameleon</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
St. John's wort (<i>Hypericum</i> sp.) n=4	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Strawberry (<i>Fragaria</i> sp.) n=5	60.00%	0.00%	40.00%
Sweet Violet (<i>Viola odorata</i>) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Tansy, common (<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Perennial continued	% Probability of Damage		
Plant Name & Number of Data Points	Never to Rarely Damaged %	Sometimes Damaged %	Frequently Severely Damaged %
Tarragon (<i>Artemisia dracuncululus</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Texas sage (<i>Leucophyllum</i> sp.) n=5	80.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Thyme (<i>Thymus</i> sp.) n=10	90.00%	0.00%	10.00%
Tickseed (<i>Coreopsis</i> sp.) n=18	72.22%	27.78%	0.00%
Trumpet vine (<i>Campsis radicans</i>) n=4	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Tussock bellflower (<i>Campanula carpatica</i>) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Virginia creeper (<i>Parthenocissus</i> sp.) n=11	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Wine-cup (<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>) n=5	40.00%	40.00%	20.00%
Wisteria (<i>Wisteria</i> sp.) n=5	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Yarrow (<i>Achillea</i> sp.) n=17	88.24%	0.00%	11.76%
Yucca (<i>Yucca</i>) n=9	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Shrub	% Probability of Damage		
Plant Name & Number of Data Points	Never to Rarely Damaged %	Sometimes Damaged %	Frequently Severely Damaged %
3-leaf sumac (<i>Rhus trilobata</i>) n=12	91.67%	8.33%	0.00%
Apache Plume (<i>Fallugia</i>) n=14	85.71%	14.29%	0.00%
Autumn sage (<i>Salvia greggii</i>) n=14	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Barberry (<i>Berberis</i> sp.) n=11	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Blue Mist Spirea (<i>Caryopteris clandonensis</i>) n=7	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Boxwood (<i>Buxus</i> sp.) n=9	88.89%	11.11%	0.00%
Broom (<i>Cytisus</i> sp.) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Buckthorn (<i>Rhammus</i> sp.) n=4	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Burning Bush (<i>Euonymus alatus</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Butterfly Bush (<i>Buddleia</i> sp.) n=19	94.74%	5.26%	0.00%
Choke cherry (<i>Prunus virginiana</i>) n=4	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Chuparosa (<i>Justicia californica</i>) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla</i> sp.) n=10	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Coffee berry (CA buckthorn) (<i>Frangula californica</i>) n=4	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Cotoneaster (<i>Cotoneaster</i> sp.) n=10	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Crape myrtle (<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Cresote Bush tubers (<i>Larrea tridentata</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Daphne (<i>Daphne</i> sp.) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Dogwood (<i>Cornus</i> sp.) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Shrub continued	% Probability of Damage		
Plant Name & Number of Data Points	Never to Rarely Damaged %	Sometimes Damaged %	Frequently Severely Damaged %
Elderberry (<i>Sambucus</i> sp.) n=5	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Euonymus (<i>Euonymus</i> sp.) n=4	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Firethorn (<i>Pyracantha</i> sp.) n=9	77.78%	22.22%	0.00%
Forsythia (<i>Forsythia</i>) n=3	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Glossy Abelia (<i>Abelia</i> sp.) n=4	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Gold dust (<i>Aucuba japonica</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Heath (<i>Erica</i> sp.) n=2	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%
Heavenly Bamboo (<i>Nandina</i> sp.) n=9	77.78%	22.22%	0.00%
Hibiscus (<i>Hibiscus</i> spp.) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Holly (<i>Ilex</i> sp.) n=6	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Indian Hawthorn (<i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i>) n=1	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Japanese Euonymus (<i>Euonymus japonica</i>) n=1	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Japanese Rose (<i>Kerria japonica</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Juniper (<i>Juniperus</i> sp.) n=20	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lilac (<i>Syringa</i> sp.) n=11	90.91%	0.00%	9.09%
Littleleaf Cordia (<i>Cordia parvifolia</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Manzanita (<i>Archostaphylos</i> sp.) n=14	92.86%	7.14%	0.00%
Mock orange (<i>Philadelphus</i> sp.) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Mouintain mahogany (<i>Cercocarpus</i> sp.) n=8	87.50%	12.50%	0.00%
Mugo pine (<i>Pinus mugo</i>) n=4	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Oleander (<i>Nerium oleander</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Oregon Grape (<i>Mahonia</i> sp.) n=14	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Photinia (<i>Photinia</i>) n=4	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Purple leaf plum (<i>Prunus</i> sp.) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Rabbit brush (<i>Chrysothamnus</i> sp.) n=10	90.00%	10.00%	0.00%
Rhododendron (<i>Rhododendron</i> sp.) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Rose of Sharon (<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>) n=4	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Roses (<i>Rosa</i> sp.) n=6	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Russian olive (<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Russian sage (<i>Perovskia</i>) n=17	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Saltbush (<i>Atriplex</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Serviceberry (<i>Amelancier</i> sp.) n=3	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Shrub live oak (<i>Quercus turbinella</i>) n=9	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Shrub rose [spiny only] (<i>Rosa</i> sp.) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Silktassel (<i>Garrya wrightii</i>) n=6	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Shrub continued	% Probability of Damage		
Plant Name & Number of Data Points	Never to Rarely Damaged %	Sometimes Damaged %	Frequently Severely Damaged %
Silverberry (<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>) n=4	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Smoke tree (<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>) n=5	80.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Snowberry (<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Spirea (<i>Spiraea</i> sp.) n=8	87.50%	12.50%	0.00%
Sumac (<i>Rhus</i> sp.) n=11	90.91%	9.09%	0.00%
Sweet acacia (<i>Vachellia farnesiana</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Turpentine bush (<i>Ericarmeria laricifolia</i>) n=6	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Viburnum (<i>Viburnum</i> sp.) n=6	83.33%	16.67%	0.00%
Weigela (<i>Weigela</i> sp.) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Wormwood (<i>Artemesia</i> sp.) n=7	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Yew (<i>Taxus</i> sp.) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Tree	% Probability of Damage		
Plant Name & Number of Data Points	Never to Rarely Damaged %	Sometimes Damaged %	Frequently Severely Damaged %
American Holly (<i>Ilex opaca</i>) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Apple, Crabapple (<i>Malus</i> sp.) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Arborvitae (<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Ash (<i>Fraxinus</i> sp.) n=7	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Aspen, Quaking (<i>Populus tremuloides</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Austrian pine (<i>Pinus nigra</i>) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
AZ cypress (<i>Cupressus arizonica</i>) n=9	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Birch (<i>Betula</i> sp.) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Cedar (<i>Cedrus</i> sp.) n=7	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Chaste Tree (<i>Vitex</i>) n=8	87.50%	12.50%	0.00%
Cherry (<i>Prunus</i> sp.) n=6	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Citrus (Various) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Cottonwood (<i>Populus</i> sp.) n=4	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Cypress (<i>Cupressus</i> sp.) n=10	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Douglas Fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>) n=6	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Dwarf Alberta spruce (<i>Picea glauca 'conica'</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Fig (<i>Fig</i>) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Fir (<i>Abies</i> sp.) n=5	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Flowering Quince (<i>Chaenomeles</i> sp.) n=6	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Fruit (apples, pears, peaches) (Various) n=11	90.91%	9.09%	0.00%

Tree continued	% Probability of Damage		
Plant Name & Number of Data Points	Never to Rarely Damaged %	Sometimes Damaged %	Frequently Severely Damaged %
Goldenrain tree (<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Hackberry (<i>Celtis</i> sp.) n=8	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus</i> sp.) n=5	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Honey Locust (<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>) n=4	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Honey Mesquite beans/pods (<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i>) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Italian cypress (<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Jobba (<i>Simmondsia chinensis</i>) n=5	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Katsura tree (<i>Cercidipylum japonicum</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Leyland cypress (<i>Cupressus x leylandii</i>) n=5	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Locust trees (<i>Robinia</i> sp.) n=6	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Magnolia (<i>Magnolia</i> sp.) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Maidenhair tree (<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>) n=5	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Maple trees (<i>Acer</i> sp.) n=12	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Mimosa (<i>Albizia</i> sp.) n=6	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Oak, including acorns (<i>Quercus</i> sp.) n=17	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Palo Verde (<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>) n=2	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Pine (<i>Pinus</i> sp.) n=16	93.75%	6.25%	0.00%
Plums (<i>Prunus</i> sp.) n=6	83.33%	16.67%	0.00%
Purple leaf sand cherry (<i>Prunus x cistena</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Redbud (<i>Cercis</i> sp.) n=7	85.71%	14.29%	0.00%
Screwbean mesquite (<i>Prosopis pubescens</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Spruce (<i>Picea</i> sp.) n=11	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Sweetgum (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Texas mountain laurel (<i>Sophora secuniflora</i>) n=4	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Tulip tree (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>) n=2	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Walnut (<i>Juglans nigra</i>) n=3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Willow (<i>Salix</i> sp.) n=1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Sources

- Penn State Extension. (n.d.). Rabbit-resistant garden and landscape plants. Penn State University. <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/master-gardener/counties/pike/publications/rabbit-resistant-garden-and-landscape-plants>
- University of Arizona Cooperative Extension. (n.d.). Rabbit herbivory ratings (Replaces AZ1237: Deer and rabbit resistant plants). University of Arizona.
- Yavapai County Master Gardener Program. (2025). Follower input from Facebook page [Unpublished raw data]. University of Arizona Cooperative Extension.
- Yavapai, Payson, & Flagstaff Master Gardeners. (2025). Responses to Qualtrics survey on herbivory [Unpublished raw data]. University of Arizona Cooperative Extension.
- Prescott Valley Nursery. (n.d.). Prescott Valley Nursery. <https://prescottvalleynursery.com/>
- Watters Garden Center. (n.d.). Watters Garden Center. <https://wattersgardencenter.com/>
- High Country Gardens. (n.d.). High Country Gardens. <https://www.highcountrygardens.com/>
- U.S. Forest Service. (2010). Planting wildlife habitat (Publication No. FS-873). U.S. Department of Agriculture. https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5345623.pdf
- Schalau, J. (2010, January). Deer and rabbit resistant plants (AZ1237). University of Arizona Cooperative Extension. <https://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/garden/az1237.pdf>

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank Watters Garden Center in Prescott, Warner's Nursery in Flagstaff, and Plant Fair Nursery in Payson for funding the community surveys which were conducted in Yavapai, Coconino, and Gila Counties.



Cooperative Extension

AUTHORS

MATT HALLDORSON

Yavapai County Director, Associate Agent - Agriculture and Natural Resources, Area Agent - Viticulture

MARY BARNES

Program Coordinator Senior, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Master Gardener Program

CHRIS JONES

Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Interim Director Coconino County

HATTIE BRAUN

(retired) Director, County Extension

CONTACT

MATT HALLDORSON

mmhalldorson@arizona.edu

This information has been reviewed
by University faculty.

extension.arizona.edu/pubs/az2908c-2025.pdf

Other titles from Arizona Cooperative Extension
can be found at:

extension.arizona.edu/pubs

Any products, services or organizations that are mentioned, shown or indirectly implied in this publication do not imply endorsement by The University of Arizona. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Edward C. Martin, Interim Director, Extension, Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension, The University of Arizona. The University of Arizona is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information in its programs and activities.