

# Wildlife-Wise Gardening

Crowsnest Pass is located in a river valley among mixed forests and abundant wildlife. Fruit-bearing trees and shrubs, garbage, and bird seed can attract this local wildlife to our neighbourhoods.



Bears follow their sensitive noses to potential food sources, and will revisit the same locations repeatedly. Deer and moose looking for a tasty meal come into town, and may be followed by cougars in search of prey.

Wildlife presence in town compromises the safety of both animals and residents. Assess your yard and landscaping for wildlife attractants and select wildlife-wise plant choices whenever possible.

## BearSmart Landscaping

Bears seeking an easy meal will choose calorie-rich food sources, particularly in the late summer and fall as they prepare for hibernation. If you have fruit-bearing trees or shrubs, pick the fruit as it ripens, or replace them with non-fruit-bearing alternatives.



### Trees/Shrubs to Avoid:

Berry bushes (strawberry, raspberry, blueberry, saskatoon)		
Wild Rose	Pin Cherry	Buffaloberry
Chokecherry	Red Osier Dogwood	Mountain Ash
Wolf Willow	Apple & Crab Apple Trees	

If you are looking for stunning, flowering trees and shrubs without the hassle of fruit to maintain, we recommend:

#### Trees:

- **Flowering Pink Plum** – a deciduous tree with double, pink petals.
- **Spring Snow Flowering Crab** - a hardy, fruitless tree with snowy white spring flowers and bright green leaves that turn yellow in the fall.

#### Shrubs:

- **Forsythia** – a border shrub with bright, yellow spring flowers
- **Lilac** – a popular shrub with fragrant purple or white spring flowers
- **Ninebark** – a colourful shrub with bi-coloured foliage from spring to fall
- **Potentilla** – a compact shrub with either yellow or white summer flowers
- **Spirea** – a rounded shrub with a variety of foliage and flower options
- **Waterton Mock Orange** – a large shrub with fragrant early summer white blooms

**Idea:** Instead of planting fruit-bearing trees and shrubs, plant those that will provide spectacular foliage at different times of the year.

**Forsythia:**  
spring



**Amur Maple:**  
fall



**Golden Pfitzer Juniper:** spring



**Blue Spruce:**  
year-round



## DeerSmart Landscaping

Hungry deer love easily accessible new growth and plants in areas offering protection from predators. Choosing plants that are spicy, odourous and toxic will deter deer (though deer-proofing a yard is almost impossible). Remember that all trees are vulnerable to damage by deer until they are at least four feet tall.



### Deer-resistant Perennials:

Yarrow  
Peony

Lady's Mantle  
Lavender

Silver Mound  
Iris

Stonecrop  
Day Lily

### More Resources:

- **non-fruit bearing trees and shrubs:** WildSmart and Eagle Lake Nurseries' Recommended Plant Species for Landscaping  
[www.wildsmart.ca/recommended-plants-for-landscaping.htm](http://www.wildsmart.ca/recommended-plants-for-landscaping.htm)
- **native plants that are wildlife resistant:** Parks Canada's Recommended Native Plants for Landscaping  
[www.wildsmart.ca/pdf/files/recommendedplantspecies.pdf](http://www.wildsmart.ca/pdf/files/recommendedplantspecies.pdf)
- **zone-appropriate plant options:** Ask for non-fruit bearing trees and shrubs and their suggestions for deer-resistant plants. They are great resources!  
local greenhouses, SpringBreak Garden Centre and Grumpy's Landscaping
- **living sustainably with wildlife:** Visit Crowsnest Conservation's website to learn more.  
[www.crowsnestconservation.ca](http://www.crowsnestconservation.ca)

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*Crowsnest Conservation Society is a charitable organization devoted to working with community partners to ensure a healthy future for the natural environment and the people and wildlife that share it.*



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