

UT Developed Dogwoods and Deer Resistant Plants

Q: I've done some research and found that UT developed an Appalachian series of dogwoods that may be best for my yard, but I'm having a really hard time finding them locally. Does anyone grow and sell them to the public anywhere between here and Chattanooga? Also, I'm overrun with deer. They eat everything here except hollies and ferns. Research shows regional differences in what is really deer resistant. Is there a resource for resistant plants in our region? Thanks

A: To your first question we found three dogwood cultivars that UT has recommended as disease resistant: 'Appalachian Spring', 'Jean's Appalachian Snow', 'Karen's Appalachian Mist' and 'Kay's Appalachian Blush'. These trees are very popular and many nurseries we searched were out of stock. Here is a website that listed some nurseries that had stocked 'Appalachian Spring' in the past: <https://www.usanpn.org/Cloned-dogwood-distributors>. Note the two locations in Knoxville and check inventories shown on their websites. You may not have to drive to Chattanooga. Find a great publication "Dogwoods for American Gardens" (PB 1670) on the UT website: <https://utextension.tennessee.edu> that may help you find a tree that will thrive in your garden that isn't as hard to find.

As for a deer resistant plant list, keep in mind that no plant is deer-proof if deer are hungry enough. However, there are two UT Extension publications you'll want to check out to help you avoid deer favorites in your yard. The first one is "Plants for Tennessee Landscapes: Bulbs for the Garden" (D140). The second is "Plants for Tennessee Landscapes: Perennials" (W874-B). These publications contain lists of Tennessee landscape plants. Look on the comments column to see if they are deer resistant. Both publications are found on the UT website: <https://utextension.tennessee.edu>.

We hope this answered your questions and we appreciate you submitting them. You can also contact the UT Extension office in your county if have questions.

The Master Gardeners of Northeast Tennessee