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YOUR HOUSE

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CONSULT EXPERT TO PROTECT YOUR LANDSCAPE INVESTMENT

Editor's Note: The following was written and submitted by Parker Homescape, a design/build landscape firm.

It is estimated that deer cause billions of dollars of damage annually to landscapes in the United States alone.

As the weather breaks and you look to spruce up your landscape with vibrant plantings, make sure that you seek professional advice as to what the deer will and will not eat. Although it is quite easy to find lists of "deer resistant" plantings by either buying a book or reading online, the eating habits of deer are constantly changing.

Many of the plants that are listed as "deer resistant," are in fact, being decimated in many areas in New Jersey. There are many instances when a deer's eating habits will be completely different even in two bordering towns.

Should you decide that you have to have a particular plant that the deer love to eat, first consult with a landscape expert to understand how to protect the plant. It is also important to understand the pluses and minuses of the various

products that are used to keep deer from eating foliage. Many of the sprays on the market require a subsequent application after a rainfall, and other products can be quite expensive. Landscaping your property is an investment in time, energy and money. It can also provide the single greatest boost to the resale value of your home, and offer you and your family years of enjoyment and memories.

Make sure to safeguard your investment by seeking the advice of a professional in your area. Do not attract the deer to your property – it could end up being the most expensive meal you ever serve.

Scott Parker is the owner of Parker Homescape, a design/build landscape firm that has been recognized as one of the Top 10 Landscape Design/Build Firms in the United States and has been recognized locally by Design NJ Magazine, New York Spaces Magazine, The Suburban News and many other prestigious publications. For information on Parker Homescape, visit their design portfolio at www.parker-homescape.com or call 908-490-0449.