

East Wind LANDSCAPE NURSERY

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Road Salt Tolerant Plants

Some species of plants can tolerate salt absorption through roots or salt accumulation on foliage and branches better than others. However, plants along very heavily salted, high speed roads; those planted in poorly drained soil; and those down slope of the salted surface will be in greater jeopardy of salt damage. When planting along sidewalks or roadways, consider using some of the following selections.

Shrubs:

Aronia arbutifolia (red chokeberry)	Myrica pennsylvanica (northern bayberry)
Berberis thunbergii (Japanese barberry)	Prunus X cistena (purpleleaf sandcherry)
Clethra alnifolia (summersweet)	Pinus mugo (mugo pine)
Cotoneaster apiculatus (cranberry cotoneaster)	Potentilla fruticosa (bush cinquefoil)
Hibiscus syriacus (rose-of-Sharon)	Prunus maritima (beach plum)
Hippophae rhamnoides (sea buckthorn)	Rhus aromatica (fragrant sumac)
Hydrangea arborescens (smooth hydrangea)	Ribes alpinum (alpine currant)
Hydrangea paniculata X grandiflora (pee gee hydrangea)	Rosa rugosa (rugosa rose)
Hypericum frondosum (golden St. Johnswort)	Spiraea X bumalda (bumald spirea)
Juniperus species (juniper)	Spiraea X vanhouttei (Vanhoutte spirea)
Lonicera species (honeysuckle)	Syringa vulgaris (common lilac)
Ligustrum species (privet)	Thuja occidentalis (eastern arborvitae)
	Vaccinium corymbosum (highbush blueberry)

Trees:

Acer ginnala (Amur maple)	Pinus nigra (Austrian pine)
Acer platanoides (Norway maple)	Pinus sylvestris (Scotch pine)
Amelanchier canadensis (shadblow)	Platanus X acerifolia (London plane tree)
Betula nigra (river birch)	Prunus sargentii (Sargent cherry)
Betula platyphylla 'Whitespire' (Asian birch)	Pyrus calleryana (Callery pear)
Caragana arborescens STD (tree-form Russian pea shrub)	Quercus alba (white oak)
Crataegus phaenopyrum (Washington hawthorn)	Quercus robur (English oak)
Fraxinus species (ash)	Quercus rubra (red oak)
Ginkgo biloba (ginkgo)	Salix species (willow)
Gleditsia triacanthos variety inermis (thornless honeylocust)	Syring reticulata (Japanese tree lilac)
Nyssa sylvatica (black tupelo)	Ulmus species (elm)
Picea pungens (Colorado spruce)	

Other things one can do to reduce salt damage to plants include:

Raise the planting site, improve drainage, or adjust the grade so salt can leach away from plants.
Construct barriers to block road salt.
Flush soil at the base of plants with water at the end of winter.