

Soil Salt Tolerance of Some Common Landscape Plantings

De-icing salt is often an issue along roadways, where the highway crews have salted and plowed winter snow. It also becomes a problem for seaside plantings or where a storm surge has deposited salt temporarily in soil. Marginal burning of foliage is a common symptom of salt damage. There are conditions which mimic salt damage, namely drought or bacterial leaf scorch. With drought leaves have a black margin, but leaves burned from salt damage will have a yellow margin. Drought damage will be uniform across the plant whereas salt may be uniform or on the 'splash' side or airborne salt spray. Bacterial leaf scorch is intermittent through tree. The following list will provide a rough approximation of soil salt tolerance for a number of common landscape plantings.

Salt Sensitivity of Common Landscape Plants		
Sensitive	Moderate	Tolerant
American elm	Amelanchier	Weeping willow
Apple	Amur maple	Austrian pine
Apricot	Aster	Baccharis
Arborvitae	Beech	Bald cypress
Atlantic cedar	Big tooth aspen	Bayberry
Balsam fir	Black cherry	Black hills spruce
Basswood	Blackjack oak	Black locust
Big leaf maple	Box elder	Currant
Black birch	Callery pear	English oak
Black oak	Cherry plum	Euonymous
Black walnut	Choke cherry	Golden rain tree
Blackberry	Columbine	Ilex vomitoria
Blue spruce	Evening primrose	Italian stone pine
Blueberry	Flowering plum	Juniperus salicicola
Canadian hemlock	Fountain grass	lilac
Carolina silverbell	Gallardia	Mugo pine
Catalpa	Green ash	Pfitzer juniper
Chamaecyparis	Grey birch	Potentilla (jackman's)
Cherry	Honey locust	Rosemary
Chestnut	Ilex cassine	Russian olive
Chionanthus	Ilex opaca	Scarlet oak
Cornus mas	Japanese black pine	Scotch broom
Cotoneaster	Japanese boxwood	Sea buckthorn
Crabapple	Japanese maple	Siberian elm
Crape myrtle	Japanese pagoda tree	staghorn sumac
Cypress spp.	Juniperus chinensis	Tree lilac
Dogwood (florida)	Juniperus virginiana	Tree of heaven
Douglas fir	Kentucky coffee tree	Van Houtte spirea
Eastern white pine	Leyland cypress	Weeping willow
English ivy	Loblolly pine	
English walnut	Lombardy poplar	
European mountain ash	Norway maple	
European white birch	Osage orange	
Flowering quince	Paper birch	

Ginkgo	Philadelphia bush (sweet mock orange)	
Grape	Pin oak	
Grey dogwood	Pyracantha	
Hackberry	Rosa rugosa	
Hawthorne	Scots pine	
Hickory	Showy border forsythia	
Hop hornbeam	Sour gum	
Hornbeam	Sweet birch	
Horse chestnut	Sweet gum	
Ilex cornuta	Taxodium	
Ilex decidua	Virginia creeper	
Japanese honeysuckle	Yellow birch	
Japanese yew	Yellow wood	
Larch		
Linden		
Little leaf linden		
Magnolia		
Mimosa		
Mulberry		
Nanking cherry		
Norway spruce		
Osmanthus		
Oxydendrum		
Peach		
Pear		
Persimmon		
Plum		
Privet		
Raspberry		
Red maple		
Red pine		
Redbud		
Red-osier dogwood		
River birch		
Roses (check variety, some more tolerant)		
Salix nigra		
Salix saliconia		
Sand Cherry		
Sassafras		
Silver maple		
Stewartia		
Styrax		
Sugar maple		
Sycamore		
Tulip tree		
Viburnum opulus		
Vinca		
Vitex tree		
White ash		
White oak		
Yucca		

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