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Plants for Difficult Situations

* For more information on plants or products/services mentioned in this talk, visit my *Melinda's Picks* page on my website. melindamyers.com

Wet and Wonderful - Moisture Loving Plants

Improve Drainage

- Soil amendment

- Raised beds

- French drains

Create a rain garden

- Divert roof runoff to plantings instead of storm sewers

Moisture Tolerant Perennials:

- Sedge (*Carex*)

- Turtlehead (*Chelone*)

- Rodgersia (*Rodgersia aesculifolia*)

Moisture Tolerant Shrubs:

- Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*)

- Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)

- Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*)

Moisture Tolerant Trees:

- Musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*)

- European Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*)

- Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)

Made in the Shade - Beyond Hostas

Evaluate sun and shade patterns throughout the day, season and year

- Indicator plants

Increase the light - hire a certified arborist to thin canopy

Too much shade

- Mulch

- Or carefully place a few flagstones, add moss and call it a garden

Don't kill the trees for the flowers**

- Don't add soil around the base of trees- as little as an inch can kill some species

- Don't till too deep- majority of feeder roots in top 12 inches

Shade Tolerant Perennials

- Moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*)

- Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum*)

- Bugbane/ Snakeroot - *Cimicifuga racemosa* (Black Snakeroot) summer blooming

Cimicifuga simplex (Autumn Snakeroot)

Shade Tolerant Shubs

Fothergilla (*Fothergilla gardenii*)
Invincibelle Spirit™ Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens* 'HCHA1')
Japanese Kerria (*Kerria japonica*)

Shade Tolerant Trees

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*)
Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)

Some Like it Hot - Plants for Full Sun and Dry Soils

Amend soil - add organic matter to increase water-holding capacity

Mulch - improves soil and keeps roots cool and moist

Water thoroughly but only when the top 4-6 inches feels crumbly but slightly moist

Heat and Drought Tolerant Perennials

Calmentha (*Calamintha nepeta*)
Gayfeather (*Liatris spicata*)
Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)

Heat and Drought Tolerant Shrubs

Blue Chip Butterfly Bush (*Buddleja* 'Blue Chip')
Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)
Smokebush (*Cotinus coggygria*)

Heat and Drought Tolerant Trees

Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioicus*)
Silver Linden (*Tilia tomentosa*)
Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)

It's a Zoo Out There - Dealing with Deer

Use a variety of tactics and monitor their success

Scare tactics, noise, light and water

Homemade and commercial repellents

Apply before they start feeding and repeat throughout the season

Fencing - 4-5 feet tall, black see through mesh, around a small garden area

Deer feeding varies with season, population and the year

The following perennials tend to be less palatable to deer:

Foam Flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*) - moist acid soils, shade tolerant, summer blooms
Peony (*Paeonia* hybrids) - 3' tall and wide, full sun, moist well-drained soil
Blue False Indigo (*Baptisia australis*)

Shrubs:

Arrowwood Viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*)

Boxwood (*Buxus*)
Blue Mist Spirea (*Caryopteris*)

Trees:

Katsura Tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*)
River Birch (*Betula nigra*)
Red Horsechestnut (*Aesculus x carnea*)

Winter Wonderland - Salt Tolerant Plants

Shovel then salt
Use sand, or plant friendly de-icers
Water in spring to leach salt through soil
Redesign - mulch or paver edging (buffer zone)
Screen plants from salt with fencing, fabrics or salt tolerant plants

Salt Tolerant Perennials

Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium*) 1.5 to 3 feet, full sun and well-drained soil, year round interest
Daylily (*Hemerocallis*)
Pinks (*Dianthus*)

Salt Tolerant Shrubs

Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)
Rugosa Rose (*Rosa rugosa*)
Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)

Salt Tolerant Trees

English Oak (*Quercus robur*)
Japanese Tree Lilac (*Syringa reticulata*)
Crabapple (*Malus*)

Walnut Woes - Black Walnut Tolerant Plants

Removing the tree - takes 5 to 10 years for material to decompose
Do not use as mulch on sensitive plants
Keep gardens away - seen damage several hundred feet away
Raised beds lined with weed barrier fabric to keep roots out
Lists are limited - based on observation
Develop your own list

Juglone Tolerant Perennials

Bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans*)
Sweet Autumn Clematis (*Clematis terniflora*)
Leopard's Bane (*Doronicum*)

Juglone Tolerant Shrubs

Juniper (*Juniperus*)
Koreanspice Viburnum (*Viburnum carlesii*)

Mockorange (*Philadelphus*)

Juglone Tolerant Trees

Hawthorne (*Crataegus*)

Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)

Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)