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Plants for Difficult Situations

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Sunny & Dry

- Group Plants with similar moisture needs
- Provide sufficient water the first few years to establish drought tolerance
- Water thoroughly and less frequently to encourage deep drought tolerant roots
- Mulch the soil

A Few Perennials

Sea thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Thyme (*Thymus*),
Lavender (*Lavandula* 'Munstead', 'Hidcote' hardier, 'Phenomenal' robust),
Lamb's ear (*Stachys byzantina*), *Salvia argentea*, Pinks (*Dianthus*), *Sedum*,
Catmints (*Nepeta* – select clumping non aggressive species/cultivars), Ornamental onions (*Allium*),
Lilyturf (*Liriope*), Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*),
Lavender Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum* – reseeds readily, 'Black Adder' hybrid suppose to be sterile),
Rudbeckia (*Rudbeckia hirta*), Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*),
Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*),
Showy goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa* - less aggressive than most goldenrods),
Lead plant (*Amorpha canescens* - takes several years to establish), *Amosonia*,
Heath aster *Symphotrichum ericoides*, False blue indigo (*Baptisia australis*),
Wild Senna (*Cassia hebecarpa*), Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*), *Yucca filamentosa*,
Blue fescue (*Festuca glauca*), Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*),
Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

A Few Shrubs & Trees

Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea*)
Sweet fern (*Comptonia peregrina*), Kalm's St. Johnswort (*Hypericum kalmianum*), Rugosa Rose (*Rosa rugosa*),
Bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*), Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*),
Caryopteris x clandonensis, Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*), Lilac (*Syringa*),
American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*), Witchhazel (*Hamamelis virginiana* – not extreme drought),
Smokebush (*Cotinus coggygria*), Wafer-Ash (*Ptelea trifoliata*), Hawthorns (*Crataegus*),
Crabapples (*Malus*), Japanese tree lilac (*Syringa pekinensis*), Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*),
Turkish filbert (*Corylus colurna*), *Ginkgo*, Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*),
Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), Junipers (*Juniperus*), Pines (*Pinus*),
White fir (*Abies concolor*)

Dry Shade

- Evaluate sun and shade patterns throughout the day, season, and year
- Increase the light - hire a certified arborist to lift or thin the canopy
- Too much shade – Mulch or Moss 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

Providing sufficient water the first two years is critical to success in dry shade

A Few Perennials

Barrenwort (*Epimedium*), Hellebores, *Bergenia*, Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), Variegated Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum odoratum* var. *pluriflorum* 'Variegatum'), Sweet Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*), Siberian Bugloss (*Brunnera*), Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra*), Coral Bells (*Heuchera*), Foamflower (*Tiarella*), Bigroot geranium (*Geranium macrorrhizum*), Canadian ginger (*Asarum canadensis*), Lilyturf (*Liriope*), Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), Some sedges (*Carex* – including *Carex pennsylvanica*)

A Few Shrubs & Trees

Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), Kalm's St. Johnswort (*Hypericum kalmianum*), Chokeberry (*Aronia*), Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos*), *Diervilla* (Bush Honeysuckle), Bottlebrush Buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*), Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), Witchhazel (*Hamamelis virginiana* – not extreme drought), Wafer-Ash (*Ptelea trifoliata*), Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*), Muscledwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*), Russian cypress (*Microbiota decussata*)

Clay Soil

- Work soil when it is moist not wet
- Amend soil - add organic matter to aerate soil and improve drainage
- Mulch – to lessen compaction (foot traffic, pounding rains...)
- Water New Plantings
 - keep root ball slightly moist avoid overwatering soil surrounding planting hole
- Water Established Plants thoroughly but only when needed

A Few Perennials

Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), False blue indigo (*Baptisia australis*), Amsonia, Goatsbeard (*Aruncus*), Bugbane (*Actaea* syn. *Cimicifuga*), Wild Quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*), Smooth Penstemon (*Penstemon digitalis*), Gray headed Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), Tall Tickseed (*Coreopsis tripteris*), *Liatris*, Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*), Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), *Monarda*, Queen of the Prairie (*Filipendula rubra*) *Rudbeckia* including 'Goldstar' & "American Gold Rush" that are leaf spot resistant), Ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*), Ohio Goldenrod (*Solidago ohioensis* less aggressive than most), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium* – with good drainage), Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), Feather reed grass (*Calamagrostis*)

A Few Shrubs & Trees

Aronia, Beautybush (*Kolkwitzia amabilis*), Bush clover (*Lespedeza thunbergia*),

Bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla*), Red twig & Cornelian Cherry Dogwoods (*Cornus sericea* & *C. mas*), Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos*), Elderberry (*Sambucus*), Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), Lilac (*Syringa*), Mockorange (*Philadelphus*), Spicebush, (*Lindera benzoin*), *Amelanchier*, Crabapple (*Malus*), *Ginkgo*, Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), Musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*), Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*), Smoketree (*Cotinus coggygria*), Witchhazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

Plant Deer tend to Leave Be

- Use a variety of tactics and monitor their success - Scare tactics, noise, light and water
- *Apply repellents before they start feeding and repeat throughout the season for greatest success*
 - Look for rain & snow resistant repellents like Plantskydd
- Fencing – 5-6 feet tall, black see through mesh, around a small garden area

A few more extensive deer resistant plant listings:

Deer Resistant Plants for Homeowners

https://www.canr.msu.edu/ipm/uploads/files/deer_resistant_plants.pdf

Landscape Plants Rated by Deer resistance <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/deer-resistant-plants/>

Plants Not Favored by Deer <https://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/A3727.pdf>

A few plants deer tend to leave be – but as we all know their taste can change and if the populations are high and deer are hungry they eat anything.

Perennial Bulbs

Daffodils, Hyacinth, *Fritillaria*, Winter aconite, Snowdrops, Grape Hyacinth, *Colchicum*

A Few Perennials

Barrenwort (*Epimedium*), Hellebore (*Helleborus*), *Bergenia*, Lungwort (*Pulmonaria*), Pasque Flower (*Pulsatilla vulgaris*), Skunk Cabbage (*Symphocarpus foetidus*), Pinks (*Dianthus*), Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*), Basket of Gold (*Aurinia saxatilis*), Siberian bugloss (*Brunnera*), Solomon Seal (*Polygonatum*), Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra*), Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), Sweet Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*), Peony (*Paeonia*), *Iris*, *Allium*, *Amsonia*, Lilyturf (*Liriope*) Canadian ginger (*Asarum canadense*), Lamb's ear (*Stachys byzantina*), Coral Bells (*Heuchera*), Foam flower (*Tiarella*), Speedwell (*Veronica*), *Coreopsis Astilbe*, Nodding pink onion (*Allium cernuum*), False Blue indigo (*Baptisia australis*), Smooth Penstemon (*Penstemon digitalis*), Wild Quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*), Poppy (*Papaver*), Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) Yarrow (*Achillea* – avoid aggressive species), Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*), Betony (*Stachys officinalis*), Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), Catmint (*Nepeta*), *Monarda*, Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*), *Rudbeckia*, *Liatris*, Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*), *Helenium*, Ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*), Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), Turtlehead (*Chelone*) Goldenrod (*Solidago* – look for less aggressive species & cultivars), Autumn onion (*Allium stellatum*), Bugbane (*Actaea* syn. *Cimicifuga*), Monkshood (*Aconitum napellus*), Turtlehead (*Chelone*),

Asters (See Aster evaluation from Chicago Botanic Garden for help with selection -

https://www.chicagobotanic.org/downloads/planteval_notes/no36_asters.pdf)

Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), Japanese Forest Grass (*Hakonechloa*), Sedges (*Carex*)
Blue Fescue (*Festuca*), Featherreed grass (*Calamagrostis*), Prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*),
Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Switchgrass (*Panicum*)

A Few Shrubs & Trees

Amelanchier, Summersweet (*Clethra*), Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea*) Bayberry (*Myrica*),
Bush Honeysuckle (*Diervilla*), Beautybush (*Kolkwitzia amabilis*), Bottlebrush Buckeye (*Aesculus
parviflora*), *Caryopteris*, Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos*), Dogwoods (*Cornus*), Carol Mackie Daphne
(*Daphne x burkwoodii* ‘Carol Mackie’), Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*), Elderberry (*Sambucus*),
Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), St. Johnswort (*Hypericum*), Lilac (*Syringa*),
Lilac Chastetree (*Vitex agnus-castus*), *Mahonia*, Michigan Holly (*Ilex verticillata*),
Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), Smoketree (*Cotinus coggygria*),
Boxwood (*Buxus*), Juniper (*Juniperus*), Pines (*Pinus*), Spruce (*Picea*), Birch (*Betula*), Blackgum (*Nyssa
sylvatica*), Musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*), Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*), *Ginkgo*, Hawthorne
(*Crataegus*), Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioicus*), Larch (*Larix*),
Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)

Black Walnut Tolerant Plants

- Removing the tree (5 to 10 years for material to decompose) –
 - Do not use as mulch on sensitive plants
- Keep gardens away – roots most concentrated within 50’ –
 - have seen impact several hundred feet away
- Raised beds lined with weed barrier fabric to keep roots out

Tolerant & Susceptible Plant Lists are limited and based on observations

<http://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-and-plant-advice/horticulture-care/plants-tolerant-black-walnut-toxicity>

Perennials

Hellebore (*Helleborus*), Barrenwort (*Epimedium*), Lungwort (*Pulmonaria*), Solomon Seal (*Polygonatum*),
Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra*), Sweet Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*), Canadian Ginger (*Asarum canadense*),
Geranium, Leopard’s Bane (*Doronicum*), Siberian Iris (*Iris siberica*), Lamb’s ear (*Stachys byzantina*),
Speedwell (*Veronica*), Daylilies (*Hemerocallis*), Coral Bells (*Heuchera*), *Hosta*, *Astilbe*, Bellflower
(*Campanula*), Garden Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*), *Monarda*, Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pupurea*),
Yarrow (*Achillea* select non aggressive cultivars), Goldenrod (*Solidago* – look for non aggressive
species/cultivars), Mum (*Chrysanthemum*), Asters, Feather reed grass (*Calamagrostis*),
Prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*),
Switchgrass (*Panicum*)

Tolerant Shrubs & Trees

Bush clover (*Lespedeza*), Elderberry (*Sambucus*), *Forsythia*, Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*).
St. Johnswort (*Hypericum*), Mockorange (*Philadelphus*), Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*),
Witchhazel (*Hamamelis*), Hawthorne (*Crataegus*), Musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*),
Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), Hemlock (*Tsuga*), Arborvitae (*Thuja*), Juniper (*Juniperus*)

Moisture Loving/Tolerant Plants

- Improve Drainage –
 - Soil amendment,
 - Raised beds,
 - French drains^[SEP]
- Create a rain garden -Divert roof runoff to plantings instead of storm sewers

Perennials

Skunk Cabbage (*Symphocarpus foetidus*), Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*), Sweet Flag (*Acorus americanus*), Blue Flag (Iris versicolor), *Astilbe*, *Penstemon*, *Amsonia*, Marsh Phlox (*Phlox glaberrima*), *Rodgersia*, Swamp Milkweed *Asclepias incarnata*), Queen of the Prairie (*Filipendula rubra*), Wild Quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*), Nodding pink onion (*Allium cernuum*), Culvers root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*), Blazing star (*Liatris pycnostachya*), Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pupurea*), Gray headed Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), Wild Bergamont (*Monarda fistulosa*), Bugbane (*Actaea* syn. *Cimicifuga*), Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Swamp Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*), Ironweed (*Vernonia*), Giant Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*), Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*)
https://www.chicagobotanic.org/downloads/planteval_notes/no37_joepyeweed.pdf
Sweet Black eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*), *Helenium autumnale*, Turtlehead (*Chelone*), Ohio Goldenrod (*Solidago ohioensis*), New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*), Native sedges (*Carex*) Japanese Forest Grass (*Hakonechloa*)

Shrubs & Trees

Amelanchier, Bayberry (*Myrica penssylvania*), Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), *Aronia*, Dogwood (*Cornus*), Elderberry (*Sambucus*), Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), St Johnswort (*Hypericum*), Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*), Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*), Michigan Holly (*Ilex verticillata*), Birch (*Betula*), Alder (*Alnus rugosa* native NOT *A. glutinosa* invasive) Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)

Dealing with De-icing Salt

- Soil and Spray salt damage
- Shovel then salt, Use sand, or plant friendly de-icers,
- Install Salt spray barrier as needed
- Mulch soil
- Water in spring to leach salt through soil
- Redesign - mulch or paver edging (buffer zone), Screen plants from salt
- Natives tolerant to salt
http://www.wildonesrrvc.org/Documents/Misc/Salt_Tolerant_Natives.pdf
- Landscape Plants tolerant and sensitive to salt
<https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0145/8808/4272/files/A3877.pdf>
<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/id/id-412-w.pdf>

A Few Annuals

Zinnia, moss rose (*Portulaca*) and petunias

A Few Perennials

Hellebore (*Helleborus*- moderately tolerant), Candytuft (*Iberis*) False Blue Indigo (*Baptisia australis*), Sea Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Pinks (*Dianthus*), Blanket flower (*Gaillardia*), *Coreopsis*, Daylily (*Hemerocallis*), Yarrow (*Achillea*), Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), *Rudbeckia*, *Sedum*, Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*), Swamp Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*), Blue fescue (*Festuca glauca*), New England Aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*), Feather reed grass (*Calamagrostis*), Prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Switchgrass (*Panicum*)

A Few Shrubs & Trees

Sweet fern (*Comptonia peregrina*), Indigo-bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*), Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), Bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*), Rugosa Rose (*Rosa rugosa*), Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) St Johnswort (*Hypericum*), Lilac (*Syringa*), Crabapple (*Malus*), Cocksbur hawthorn (*Crataegus crus-galli*) Japanese tree lilac (*Syringa pekinensis*), Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*), *Ginkgo*, Red horsechestnut (*Aesculus x carnea*), Horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), Sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), Juniper (*Juniperus*), Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)

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