

## **Salt tolerant plants**

Garden reference books frequently categorize plants as “salt tolerant” if they thrive in coastal or bayside conditions. However, they don’t specifically address watering plants with a source that is high in salinity such as the Brazos River or Lake Granbury.

Local water and soils often test high in salinity. Salinity can be caused by saline groundwater originating in mineral-laden areas hundreds of miles away. The presence of salt in our water and soils has also been elevated through the years by various commercial and agricultural practices. Water purification systems and chemical fertilizers, for instance, are extremely high in sodium.

In general, drought-tolerant plants perform best in salty conditions because their less frequent need for irrigation minimizes the water’s impact on the soil. Native plants are also good selections because of their obvious adaptation to local conditions. Plants with tough or leathery leaves or foliage covered in tiny hairs fare best with overhead sprinkler systems. That’s because their leaf surfaces are more resistant to salt, wind and moisture loss. Plants with very small or narrow leaves also seem to incur less damage.

The following plant lists were compiled based on several sources. Keep in mind, however, that plants listed for coastal conditions may not do well in North Texas winters. Be sure to check the hardiness of any plant before purchase. You should also check sunlight or shade requirements to determine if the plant will survive in your landscape.

While these plants fare well in many landscapes, you should not make a large investment in any plant species until you determine its tolerance for your specific conditions.

### **Plants that tolerate salt-water spray or seaside conditions**

#### **Perennials, Herbs, Grasses, & Annuals**

Columbine	Verbena
Calylophus	Rain Lily
Blue Carex Sedge	Coreopsis
Chrysanthemum	Mexican Heather
Crinum	Blanket Flower
Dianthus	Daylily
Eupatorium	Lantana
Hibiscus	Shasta Daisy
Amaryllis	Rudbeckia
Four-Nerve Daisy	Mexican Feather Grass
Gayfeather	Zexmenia
Manfreda	Agave
Pentas	Angel trumpet
Russian Sage	Ginger
Coneflower	Coral Bean
Pink Skullcap	Hummingbird Bush (hamilia patens)
Stokes Aster	Rosemary
Dahlberg Daisy	Turk’s Cap
Liriope	Miscanthus Grass

Muhly Grass  
Fountain Grass  
Tuberose  
Mealy Cup Sage  
Indigo Spires Salvia  
Anise Scented Sage  
Copper Canyon Daisy  
Mexican Mint Marigold  
Yellow Bells (*Tecoma stans*)  
Butterfly weed  
Cigar Plant  
Shrimp Plant  
Ruellia, Mexican Petunia  
Mexican Bush Sage

Artemisia  
Crinum  
Daylily  
Yarrow  
Indian Blanket  
Prickly Pear Cactus  
Purple Heart  
Red Hot Poker  
Santolina  
Society Garlic  
Stonecrop Sedum  
Pavonia, Rock Rose  
Roses (antique)

### **Shrubs**

Century plant  
Agave  
Chile Pequin  
Red Yucca  
Carissa Holly  
Dwarf Yaupon  
False Indigo  
Texas Sage  
Dwarf Wax Myrtle  
Oleander  
Indian Hawthorn  
Palmetto  
Salvia Greggii  
Coralberry  
Abelia  
Agarita  
Butterfly Bush  
Beautyberry  
Sago Palm  
Silverberry (*Elaeagnus*)  
Texas Sage  
Loropetalum

Nandina Domestica (not *Nana*)  
Oleander  
Prickly Pear  
Spirea  
Viburnum  
Yucca  
Century Plant  
Cotoneaster  
Palmetto  
Quince  
Indian Hawthorn  
Barberry  
Pittosporum  
Oleander  
Rose of Sharon, Mallow  
Sumac  
Yucca  
Hollies  
Euonymus  
Barberry  
Viburnum  
Roses (antique)

### **Vines**

Bougainvillea  
Trumpet Creeper  
Wintercreeper (also groundcover)

Carolina Jessamine  
Cypress Vine  
Pasion Vine

Virginia Creeper  
Coral Vine

Roses (antique)

**Trees:**

American Holly  
Live Oak  
Cedar  
Privet  
Pine  
Yaupon  
Wax Myrtle  
Cypress  
Willow  
Desert Willow

\* This list is not intended to be comprehensive, nor does it represent a guarantee that the plants will grow and flourish.

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