

# Seashore Gardening

By Irene Wanat, Rutgers Master Gardener

## ADVERSE CONDITIONS BY THE SEASHORE...

- **Drying wind** – create a windbreak and/or use wind tolerant plants
- **Drying sand** – incorporate organic amendments, use drought tolerant plants, apply organic mulch
- **Baking heat** – use heat loving and drought tolerant plants
- **Salt spray** (the deal breaker) – use salt tolerant plants

**INSTALL FENCING OR PLANT SALT TOLERANT WINDBREAK:** *Ilex opaca* (American Holly), *Juniperus virginiana* (Easter Red Cedar), *Picea pungens glauca* (Colorado Blue Spruce), *Thuja occidentalis* (White Cedar), *Prunus laurocerasus* (Cherry Laurel), *Taxus* (Yew)

## ALSO

- **Incorporating organic amendments will improve moisture retention as well as provide nutrients for healthy plant growth.**
- **Choose plants that are salt and drought tolerant**
- **Apply organic mulch to retain moisture in the soil and control erosion**
- **Plant in masses (of the same plants or of the same plant height)**
- **Buy bigger plants to start**
- **Treat your plants with extra care, especially watering regularly**
- **Use overhead watering periodically to rinse salt/sand off foliage**

## SALT and DROUGHT TOLERANT SHRUBS

*Aucuba japonica* ‘Variegata’, *Aucuba japonica* ‘Picturata’, *Aucuba japonica* ‘Sulphur’, Male pollinators: A. ‘Mr. Goldstrike’, A. ‘Golden King’

*Mahonia bealei* (Grape Holly, Leatherleaf Mahonia)

*Photinia* × *fraseri* (Red-tip Photinia)

*Physocarpus opulifolius* ‘Diablo’ (Ninebark)

*Prunus maritima* (Beach Plum)

*Spiraea japonica* ‘Double Play® Pink’ (Spirea)

*Hydrangea paniculata* ‘Limelight’

*Clethra alnifolia* (Summersweet, Sweet Pepperbush), *Clethra a.* ‘Hummingbird’, *Clethra a.* ‘Ruby Spice’

## SALT and DROUGHT TOLERANT ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

*Panicum* spp. (Switch Grass)

*Panicum virgatum* ‘Northwind’ (Switch Grass)

*Nassella tenuissima* a.k.a *Stipa tenuissima* (Mexican Feather Grass)

*Pennisetum alopecuroides* ‘Little Bunny’ (Fountain Grass)

*Cortaderia selloana* ‘Pumila’ (Dwarf Hardy Pampas Grass)

*Schizachyrium scoparium* (Little Bluestem)

*Bouteloua gracilis* ‘Blonde Ambition’ (Blue Grama Grass)

*Calamagrostis x acutiflora* ‘Karl Foerster’ (Feather Reed Grass)

*Miscanthus sinensis* ‘Little Miss’ (Maiden Grass)

**GRASSES to AVOID...** *Leymus arenarius* (Blue Lyme grass), *Chasmanthium latifolium* (Northern Sea Oats), *Pennisetum alopecuroides* ‘Moudry’ (Black Fountain Grass), most *Miscanthus sinensis* spp. (Maiden Grass)

## **SALT and DROUGHT TOLERANT PERENNIALS**

*Sempervivum* (Hen & Chicks)

*Armeria maritima* (Sea Thrift)

*Geranium macrorrhizum* 'Bevan's Variety' (Big Foot Cranesbill)

*Hosta* (Plantain Lily) NEVER, EVER needs dividing

*Hosta* 'Great Expectations,' *H.* 'Sum and Substance,' *H.* 'Samuri', *H.* 'Blue Wedgewood,' *H.sieboldiana* 'Elegance'

*Hosta* 'Royal Standard', *Hosta sieboldii* 'Elegans', *H.* 'Krossa Regal', *H.* 'Halcyon', *H.* 'Sun Power', *Hosta* 'Gold Edger'

*Heuchera* spp. (Coral Bells)

*Heuchera* 'Steel City' (Coral Bells)

*Stachys byzantine* 'Silver Carpet' (Lamb's Ears)

*Gaillardia* 'Arizona Sun' (Blanket Flower)

*Kniphofia uvaria* (Red Hot Poker)

*Delosperma cooperi* (Ice Plant)

*Nepeta* 'Walker's Low' (Catmint)

*Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam' (Threadleaf Tickseed)

*Hemerocallis* (Daylily) - *Hemerocallis* 'Stella d'Oro', *H.* 'Happy Returns', *H.* 'Miss Amelia', *H.* 'Pardon Me',

*H.* 'Infiniti', *H.* 'Plum Perfect', *H.* 'Carefree Peach', *H.* 'Rosy Returns'

*Achillea millefolium* 'Sumer Pastel Mix' (Yarrow)

*Astilbe chinensis* 'Amber Moon' (False Spirea)

*Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldsturm' (Black-eyed Susan)

*Sedums telephium* 'Matrona' (Stonecrop)

*Perovskia atriplicifolia* 'Little Spire' (Russian Sage)

*Asclepias incarnata* (Swamp Milkweed)

*Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterfly weed)

*Monarda didyma* 'Jacob Cline' (Bee balm)

*Lavandula x intermedia* 'Phenomenal' (Lavender)

*Echinacea purpurea* (Purple Coneflower)

*Agastache foeniculum* 'Golden Jubilee' (Anise Hyssop)

*Nipponanthemum nipponicum* (Montauk or Sea Bright Daisy)

*Solidago sempervirens* (Stiff Goldenrod)

*Solidago rugosa* (Rough Goldenrod)

## **SALT TOLERANT ANNUALS – drought tolerant if planted in a garden bed, but not if planted in a container**

*Lobularia maritima* (Sweet Alyssum)

*Catharanthus roseus* (Vinca, Periwinkle)

*Pentas lanceolata* (Star Flower)

*Euphorbia hypericifolia* 'Diamond Frost'

*Lantana*

*Senecio cineraria* (Dusty Miller)

*Evolvulus glomeratus* (Blue Daze)

*Portulaca grandiflora* (Rose Moss)

*Zinnia*

**SALT TOLERANT VEGETABLES – use raised beds and/or containers and use potting soil mixed with compost to grow a larger variety of vegetables than the list below.**

Beets                  Squash, zucchini  
Asparagus         Kale

**Moderate Salt Tolerance**

Radish                Lettuce  
Pepper                Sweet potato  
Corn                  White potato  
Cabbage              Celery  
Spinach                Cucumber  
Tomato

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=E349> Saltwater Flooding and Your Garden