

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)

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

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