

## Tree salt tolerant species

Planting trees along roads and driveways requires an additional consideration due to potential salt damages and injuries that will occur during their lifetime. Trees affected by salt will have a stunned appearance and reduce growth as well as many will succumb due to higher doses of salt in soil or on trees themselves. It is very important to plan ahead and plant trees that are best suited to handle higher amounts of salt that they can be exposed to. You must understand biology, growth, and site requirements for each species planted along roads or driveways.

It is crucial to plant more salt tolerant species along roads and driveways as they will protect less salt tolerant species from salt damages. Less winter hardy plants are more susceptible to salt injuries. If you plant trees along very busy roads start with salt tolerant shrubs as a first line of defence; following salt tolerant trees and further away the trees that are at least salt tolerant. Little planning ahead will save you a lot of headache down the road and will allow you to have a long lasting shelterbelt/trees around your property.

It is important to keep in mind that all species of plants, shrubs and trees are affected by salt; some are able to tolerate greater salt levels than others but it will still affect them. There is NO tree or shrub suitable for high and extremely high saline soils or in areas where annual road de-icing or dust control will accumulate high levels of salt in soil. Some of these trees and shrub species can be **very invasive** and it is crucial to check with local authorities if you are allowed to plant some of these very invasive shrubs and trees on your property. Trees and shrubs rated to salt tolerance as high, medium and low:

**High salt tolerance:** Silver buffalo berry and Sea buckthorn Russian olive, Rocky Mountain juniper and Austrian pine

**Medium salt tolerance:** Caragana, Spreading juniper, Snowberry, Villosa lilac, Hawthorn, Chokecherry, Mountain Ash, Ponderosa pine, Green ash, Manitoba maple, Siberian elms, Laurel leaf willow, and some apples

**Low salt tolerance:** Raspberry, Rose, Dogwood, winged euonymus, Spirea, Colorado blue spruce, Douglas fir, balsam fir, Cottonwood, Aspen, Birch, Little-leaved linden and Larch

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