

Did you lose precious plants during Hurricane Erin? Many of us did. The salty floodwaters are the primary reason. Before you re-plant, please consider salt-tolerant natives for your Stone Harbor Garden. Encourage your landscaper!

Salt Tolerant Plants for the East Coast USA

Landscaping and Gardening Solutions for Coastal Environments

Introduction

Gardening and landscaping along the East Coast of the United States often present unique challenges due to salty air, brackish soils, and occasional saltwater intrusion from storms or ocean spray. Selecting salt tolerant plants is crucial for successful, low-maintenance landscapes in coastal areas. This guide provides an overview of various trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennials that thrive in salty conditions, ensuring beauty and resilience in your garden.

Salt Tolerant Trees

- *Eastern Red Cedar (Juniperus virginiana)*: A hardy evergreen that tolerates salty soils and wind, ideal for windbreaks and screens.
- *Southern Magnolia (Magnolia grandiflora)*: Known for its glossy leaves and fragrant white flowers, this tree withstands coastal conditions.
- *Live Oak (Quercus virginiana)*: A classic coastal tree with broad, spreading limbs and high salt tolerance.
- *Black Gum (Nyssa sylvatica)*: Also called Tupelo, this tree offers stunning fall color and grows well in coastal areas.

Salt Tolerant Shrubs

- *Wax Myrtle (Myrica cerifera)*: An evergreen shrub that tolerates salt spray, wind, and poor soils.
- *Bayberry (Morella pensylvanica)*: A native shrub with aromatic foliage and waxy berries, suitable for hedges and screens.

- *Rugosa Rose (Rosa rugosa)*: Renowned for its fragrant blooms and resilience to salt and wind.
- *Sea Buckthorn (Hippophae rhamnoides)*: Produces bright orange berries, tolerates salt, and helps stabilize dunes.

Salt Tolerant Grasses and Groundcovers

- *American Beach Grass (Ammophila breviligulata)*: Essential for dune stabilization and coastal erosion control.
- *Saltmeadow Cordgrass (Spartina patens)*: Thrives in salt marshes and wet coastal sites.
- *Panic Grass (Panicum amarum)*: Grows well in sandy, salty soils and is often used for dune restoration.
- *Seaside Goldenrod (Solidago sempervirens)*: Offers bright yellow blooms and handles salty air and soils.

Salt Tolerant Perennials and Flowers

- *Blanket Flower (Gaillardia pulchella)*: A colorful, drought- and salt-tolerant wildflower.
- *Daylily (Hemerocallis spp.)*: Adaptable and resilient, with many varieties suitable for coastal gardens.
- *Yarrow (Achillea millefolium)*: Tolerates poor, salty soils and provides long-lasting blooms.
- *Sea Lavender (Limonium carolinianum)*: Native to salt marshes and produces delicate purple flowers.

Tips for Gardening in Salty Environments

1. *Soil Amendments*: Improve drainage and organic matter to help plants cope with salt stress.
2. *Mulching*: Use mulch to reduce soil evaporation and limit salt accumulation at the surface.
3. *Water Management*: Rinse leaves with fresh water during dry spells to remove salt buildup.
4. *Plant Selection*: Choose native species whenever possible, as they are best adapted to local conditions.

Conclusion

With the right selection of salt tolerant plants, gardeners and landscapers along the East Coast can create vibrant, sustainable landscapes that withstand the rigors of coastal living. Consider the species listed in this guide for your next coastal garden project, and enjoy a thriving landscape for years to come.