

# Salt Tolerant Perennials

With winter on the way, consider varieties that are less likely to be damaged by salt used to melt ice on roads or sidewalks. Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor, University of Vermont has identified a number of hardy perennials and ornamental grasses that won't be easily damaged when the salt truck comes by.

## **Highly Tolerant Perennials:**

Some columbine and pinks (*Dianthus*), bearberry, common wood aster, daylily species and hybrids, bird's foot trefoil, seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*), and barren strawberry (*Waldsteinia*).

Salt-tolerant ornamental grasses include 'Karl Foerster' reed grass, blue lyme grass, maiden grass (*Miscanthus*), muhly grass, sand cordgrass, and little bluestem.

## **Perennials With Some Tolerance:**

Silver mound artemisia, butterfly weed, candytuft, foxglove, sea holly, peony, baby's breath, tall phlox, creeping phlox, bellflower, Lenten rose, coralbells, bearded iris, evening primrose, 'Autumn Joy' sedum, hens and chicks, Russian sage, Prairie mallow, soapweed, sea thrift (*Armeria*), yarrow, and yucca.

'Elijah' blue fescue is a low ornamental grass with some salt tolerance, as is ribbon grass (*Phalaris*), panic grass (*Panicum*), blue oat grass, and fountain grass (*Pennisetum*).

## **Stay Away:**

If you're worried about salt, avoid purple coneflower, hosta, narcissus, and thyme.

Want to know more? Check out Perry's Perennial Pages by [clicking here](#)