Landscape sites can present many challenges for plants.

**Soils** - Poor drainage or excessive drainage due to soil type.

**Sunlight** - Too much or too little sun can require careful plant selection. Plants which require full-sun need at least 6 hours of sunlight per day. Plants that require shade generally cannot tolerate more than 3 hours of direct sunlight per day.

**Climate** - North facing landscapes present a concern for wind exposure and freeze damage. South facing landscapes present a concern for intense heat and sun exposure.

**Moisture** - Water can be an issue. Too much leads to root diseases while too little causes plants to be stunted leading eventually to death from drought.

**Salt** - Roadside salt as well as seaside conditions can kill plants through desiccation. In certain regions, irrigation water can be contaminated with salt water. Pollution is also becoming a problem which weakens plants.

**Deer** - Deer browsing can be a serious problem in keeping plants in the landscape.

In order to tip the balance in favor of the plant, several items must be done to enhance the plant's survival on a difficult site:

1. Choose the right plant for the site.
2. Select a plant of high quality.
3. Prepare the site and the soil.
4. Prune any broken or diseased branches or roots.
5. Water thoroughly and mulch.
6. Monitor the plant's progress.

Plants exist which tolerate extreme conditions better than others and I have compiled the following lists of plants suitable for the various conditions anyone might have to face in the landscape.

**Perennials:** Daylily, Physostegia, Chrysogonum, Butterfly Weed, Aster, Echinacea, Elymus, Boltonia, Blackberry-Lily, Shasta Daisy, Campanula, *Verbena bonariensis*, Heliopsis, Liatris, Switch Grass, Rudbeckia, Silphium, Goldenrod, Indian Grass. **Annuals:** Sunflower, Marigold, Gomphrena, Abelsmoschus, Cosmos, Amaranthus. **Ground Covers:** Houttuynia, Equisetum, Lysimachia, Acorus, Sedges.


