

# Is Salt Hurting Your Landscaping?

Keeping ice and snow off your driveway and sidewalks is important for safety, but keep in mind the damage that salt can do to the environment and your landscaping. You wouldn't want to kill your favorite tree, shrub or grass, so check out the plants that grow within five or ten feet of your driveway and sidewalk (and the road, for that matter).

The table below summarizes some of the salt sensitive plants that might be at risk. If you have salt-sensitive trees, shrubs or grasses in this zone, you should avoid any deicing product that contains chlorides (rock salt and calcium chloride), or use very small doses. You may want to use CMA (Calcium Magnesium Acetate) as a safer alternative, or stick with sand for traction.

Make sure to buy your deicing product well before the big storm hits; otherwise, you could be looking at empty shelves and have few, if any, environmental choices to make at the store.

## Landscaping Species at Risk from Salting

<b>Deciduous Trees</b>	Tulip Polar, Green Ash, Hickory, Red Maple, Sugar Maple
<b>Conifers</b>	Balsam Fir, White Pine, Hemlock, Norway Spruce
<b>Shrubs</b>	Dogwood, Redbud, Hawthorn, Rose, Spirea
<b>Grasses</b>	Kentucky Bluegrass, Red Fescue

Source: Envirocast Newsletter

