



CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

SUGGESTED PLANTS FOR WET SOIL

Many times when we say we have wet soil, we really mean that we are dealing with clay soil, which can be very challenging. When heavy clay soil becomes waterlogged it takes forever to dry out - and when too dry it turns to concrete. Plants frequently rot from too much water, scorch from not enough, or are so damaged by shifts from one extreme to the other that they die outright.

You can improve drainage by planting "high". Dig a shallow hole, position the root ball, and build the soil up around the ball, creating a broad, low mound. You might mix in a small amount of a different type of soil to add volume, if necessary, but many studies have shown that replacing the original soil is not beneficial. The mound should be at least three times as wide as the original root ball, and the top should just hit the root collar, that slight flare where the trunk becomes root. You may even have to uncover the trunk a bit to compensate for the occasional irregular root ball. Never pile soil or mulch so that it mounds up onto the trunk as it will eventually damage the tree.

Other options are: regrading the site to enhance drainage, installing drain tile, or constructing raised planting beds. The following are landscape plants that tolerate wet soil conditions better than most:

TREES

Acer rubrum	Red Maple
Acer saccharinum	Silver Maple
Acer x freemanii	Freeman Hybrid Maple
Alnus ssp.	Alder
Amelanchier ssp.	Juneberry, Shadblow, Serviceberry
Betula nigra	River Birch
Carpinus caroliniana	American Hornbeam
Celtis occidentalis	Hackberry
Gleditsia ssp.	Honeylocust
Larix laricina	Tamarack
Liquidambar styraciflua	American Sweetgum
Metasequoia glyptostroboides	Dawn Redwood
Morus ssp.	Mulberry
Picea glauca	White Spruce
Platanus occidentalis	Sycamore
Quercus bicolor	Swamp White Oak
Quercus palustris	Pin Oak
Salix ssp.	Willow
Taxodium distichum	Baldcypress
Thuja occidentalis	American Arborvitae, White Cedar
Thuja plicata	Giant (Western) Arborvitae
Ulmus ssp.	Elm

PERENNIALS

Astilbe ssp.	Astilbe
Convallaria majalis	Lily-of-the-Valley
Ferns	Hardy Ferns
Hemerocallis ssp.	Daylily
Hibiscus moscheutos	Rose Mallow
Hosta ssp.	Hosta, Plantain Lily
Iris kaempferi	Japanese Iris
Monarda didyma	Bee-balm, Horsemint, Bergamot
Myosotis ssp.	Forget-Me-Not
Physostegia virginiana	Obediant Plant
Tradescantia virginiana	Virginia Spiderwort
Viola ssp.	Violets

SHRUBS

Amelanchier stolonifera	Running Serviceberry
Aronia ssp.	Chokeberry
Calycanthus floridus	Carolina Allspice
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush
Clethra alnifolia	Summersweet
Cornus ssp.	Dogwood (shrub types)
Ilex glabra	Inkberry
Ilex verticillata	Winterberry, Michigan Holly
Itea virginica	Virginia Sweetspire
Ligustrum ssp.	Privet
Lindera benzoin	Spicebush
Myrica pensylvanica	Bayberry
Physocarpus opulifolius	Ninebark
Rhus aromatica	Fragrant Sumac
Rosa virginiana	Virginia Rose
Sambucus canadensis	Elderberry
Salix ssp.	Willow
Symphoricarpos ssp.	Snowberry
Vaccinium corymbosum	Highbush Blueberry
Viburnum dentatum	Arrowwood Viburnum
Viburnum opulus	European Cranberry
Viburnum sargentii	Sargent Viburnum
Viburnum trilobum	American Cranberry

VINES / GROUNDCOVERS

Campsis radicans	Trumpetvine
Celastris scandens	Bittersweet
Galium odoratum	Sweet Woodruff
Hedera helix	English Ivy
Parthenocissus ssp.	Boston Ivy, Virginia Creeper