

If you live in Pantego and you've wondered why you've had to replace your landscape plants on a regular basis, this handout will provide that answer and help you to be a successful Pantego gardener.

Pantego has salts in the tap water. Many plants are sensitive to salts and just can't tolerate an on-going dose. Eventually (sometimes in as little as a year) the regular dose of salt from watering kills certain plants. Have you noticed that your plants look much better during rainy periods when you don't have to supply the water?

If you have clay soil the problem is even worse. Clay soils hold salts and salts tie up nutrients. During stressful periods such as extreme cold spells when the plants reach down for help, they can actually pull salts up inside their system. For most plants this is sure death.

Don't despair! Don't move! Read this! We have many gardeners in Pantego that we have been working with for four years now. With their patience and willingness to test plants in their yards and to test out products and procedures, we've come up with a list of salt-tolerant plants and several special practices that will make your gardening experience a good one.



### DOs and DON'Ts

**DO** Get on our Basic Organic Program - Come by our store and pick up one free.

When you do bed prep - Follow our planting guides (free at the store) and add lava sand, greensand and compost to your beds, especially if you have clay soil. These products will help to reduce the salt held in the soil, reduce watering needs and break up the clay.

When you plant annuals - Follow our planting guide. Foliar spray your annuals with John's Recipe or Garrett Juice every two weeks to keep them from yellowing.

For your lawn - The basic program works fairly well but in sandy yards you will need to foliar feed about every 2-3 weeks instead of every 6-7 weeks. A ½-inch of compost spread once a year helps greatly to hold green in sandy soils.

Solve your drainage problems - Good drainage is important anywhere but is essential in Pantego because of the high salts in the water.

Plant the plants that can tolerate salts - See our plant list on the next page.

**DON'T** Don't use chemical fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides - These products are full of salts and will only add to your problems. They are also pollutants and are not good for your health.

Never add sand or peat moss - Both of these products can cause long-term drainage problems in your planting beds.

Don't over water - Get on our watering schedule (pick up a copy of our free handout). Most people water too much. Since your water is a problem, we want to teach you how to water as little as possible. This will help your water bills as well as your plants.

Don't plant the plants that are salt-sensitive - Some plants will state this on the tag, especially if the plants come from a coastal nursery.

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# PLANT LIST

## RECOMMENDED PLANTS

Following is a list of plants that will tolerate Pantego conditions. Some plants actually prefer Pantego conditions to Arlington. These are indicated by one or more asterisks the more asterisks, the better suited is the plant for Pantego.

### TREES

Wax Myrtle - sun or shade  
Fig - a.m. sun, p.m. shade  
Desert Willow - sun  
Oaks (except Bur Oak) - sun  
Pecan - sun  
Crape Myrtle - sun  
Mimosa - a.m. sun, p.m. shade  
Forest Pansy Redbud - shade  
Oklahoma Redbud - shade  
Bald Cypress - sun  
Yaupon Holly - sun or shade  
Mesquite - sun  
East Texas Palatka - sun  
Austrian Pine - sun  
Black Japanese Pine - sun  
Mondell Pine - sun  
Elms, Weeping Willow - sun

### SHRUBS

Eleagnus - sun or shade  
\*Euonymus (all) - sun or shade  
Cherry Laurel - shade  
Turk's Cap - shade  
\*Pittosporum - a.m. sun, p.m. shade  
Indian Hawthorn - sun or shade  
Privet - sun  
Cotoneaster - sun  
Camellia - shade  
Gardenia - shade  
(August Beauty & Radicans)  
Buddleia (all) - sun, p.m. shade best  
Hardy Hibiscus - sun  
\*Tropical Hibiscus - sun or shade  
Aucuba - shade  
Pigeonberry - shade  
Firebush - shade  
Sumac - sun  
Holly Fern - shade  
Umbrella Sedge - shade  
Horse Tail Reed - shade  
Burford Holly - sun or shade  
\*Arborvitae - sun  
East Texas Palatka - sun  
\*Junipers - sun  
(all except Blue Rug)  
Yaupon Holly - sun or shade  
Cleyera - shade  
Crape Myrtle - sun  
SHRUBS (cont.)  
Nandina - sun or shade

Forsythia - shade  
Nelly R. Stevens Holly - sun or shade  
Foster Holly - sun or shade  
\*Ligustrum - sun or shade  
\*\*\*Oleander - sun  
\*Photinia - sun  
Pyracantha - sun  
Quince - sun  
\*Yucca - sun  
Antique Roses (all) - sun

### HERBS

\*\*\*Rosemary - sun or shade  
Basil - a.m. sun, p.m. shade  
Oregano - sun or shade  
Rue - sun or shade  
Chives - sun or shade  
Salad Burnet - a.m. sun, p.m. shade  
Lemon Thyme - sun or shade

### ANNUALS

Periwinkle - sun  
\*Carpet Periwinkle - sun  
Moss Rose - sun  
\*\*Bougainvillea - sun or shade  
Petunias - sun  
Snapdragons - sun  
Penta - a.m. sun, p.m. shade

### VINES AND GROUND COVERS

\*\*Trumpet Vine - sun  
Carolina Jessamine - sun  
Cypress Vine - sun  
English Ivy - shade  
Asian Jasmine - sun or shade  
\*Chinese Wisteria - shade  
Boston Ivy - sun or shade  
Virginia Creeper - a.m. sun, p.m. shade  
Honeysuckles (all) - sun or shade

### PERENNIALS

Mexican Petunias - a.m. sun-p.m. shade  
\*Blue Shade Ruellia - sun or shade  
Lantana (all) - sun  
Daylilies - sun or shade  
Mexican Heather (Compacta only) - a.m. sun, p.m. shade  
Homestead Verbena - sun or shade (clay soil only)  
\*Germander - a.m. sun, p.m. shade  
\*Mexican Bush Sage - a.m. sun, p.m. shade  
Salvia - a.m. sun, p.m. shade  
Gayfeather - sun  
\*Dianthus (all) - a.m. sun, p.m. shade  
Cape Cod Plumbago - sun  
Yarrow - sun or shade  
(green leaf only)  
Salvia Greggii - sun or shade  
\*Anisacanthus - a.m. sun, p.m. shade  
Veronica - a.m. sun, p.m. shade  
Blackfoot Daisy - sun or shade

Coralberry - shade  
Coreopsis - sun  
(Moonbeam & Lance Leaf only)  
\*Gazania Daisy - a.m. sun, p.m. shade  
Green Santolina - sun  
\*\*\*Sedum - sun  
(Autumn Joy, Ruby Glow, Vera Jameson)  
\*\*\*Cacti (all) - sun  
Wood Violets - shade  
Pink Panda - shade  
Verbena Bonariensis - sun  
Datura - a.m. sun, p.m. shade  
(White only)  
\*Lamium (all) - shade  
\*\*\*Dahlia - a.m. sun, p.m. shade  
Artemisia (all) - sun  
Four-o'clock - a.m. sun, p.m. shade

## PLANTS NOT RECOMMENDED

**These are plants in Pantego that died right away in our tests. These results occurred in at least two different plantings:**

Coneflower - turns black and dies right away, though in another case it was found to be quite successful  
Wood Fern - dies back within one month to return with good rainwater. Does not seem to survive over years  
Lavender - will not grow. Turns gray and black within one month unless in a pot and watered by bottled water only  
Thyme (except Lemon) - dies in a month  
Ajuga disappears, never to return.  
Azalea - spindly dies back  
Abelia - spindly, dies back  
Lavendercotton (Gray Santolina) - turns black  
Hybrid Roses

The following do not do well - looks like salt burn on leaves:  
Hydrangea, Japanese Maple, Magnolia, Common Verbena, Boxwood, Monkey Grass, Maple Trees, Chinese Holly

Observation (for what it's worth):  
Pantego customers who water in the evening are not as prone to have fungal problems in their lawns as Arlington customers.