



Tough Trees for Difficult Spots in the Home Landscape

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Most people have seen them. Those plants gasping for life on the tiny green island in the mall parking lot, or struggling along in the highway median. These are tough spots for anything to survive.

But surprisingly, a homeowner can end up with some pretty rough growing conditions right in their own yard. Heavy clay soils, fill dirt and debris from new construction, exposed dry western slopes, wet areas, and so on.

If you have a spot with these conditions, not all plants are cut out for the tough life, but some are. There are plants that can survive, even thrive in these spots. Sometimes, they are so tough they seem to be able to grow anywhere, others are tough but need a little extra TLC to get established. The key is to be realistic about the conditions the plant has to grow in, and if you are committed to trying to growing a plant that is 'delicate' be prepared to greatly modify the soil it grows in and greatly increase the care given to it.

Below is a list of plants that have proven tough in central Ohio's heavy soils, alkaline conditions, droughty summers and late spring frosts. Combine this with some advice from our gardening experts to help fill this tough spot!

SMALL SPECIES 6-25' HIGH

HEDGE MAPLE

TRIDENT MAPLE

HAWTHORN

LACEBARK PINE

WEeping CHERRY

CORNELIAN CHERRY

MEDIUM TREES 25 - 40'

MIYABE MAPLE

ALDER SP.

EUROPEAN HORNBEAM

HARDY RUBBER TREE

GOLDENRAIN TREE

AMUR MAACHIA

COMMON PERSIMMON

BLACK HILLS SPRUCE

WEeping AND UPRIGHT CHERRY

LARGE TREES 40' +

AUTUMN BLAZE MAPLE

RED MAPLE

SIENNA GLEN MAPLE

OCTOBER GLORY MAPLE

AUTUMN FLAME MAPLE

NORWEGIAN SUNSET MAPLE

PACIFIC SUNSET MAPLE

GINKGO TREE

THORNLESS HONEYLOCUST

KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE

SWEETGUM

LONDON PLANETREE

WHITE SPRUCE

AUSTRIAN PINE

OAKS

BALDCYPRESS

LACEBARK ELM

HYBRID ELMS

ZELKOVA

CATALPA

SUGAR HACKBERRY

TREES FOR YOUR HOME