

Acreage-Tough Plants

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Are you trying to raise plants on

your acreage and not having much luck? You are not alone. Your landscape plants have a lot of obstacles against them. Drought, rabbits, deer, the list goes on and on. Here is a

list of plants that are drought tolerant once they are established and less likely to be eaten by our wildlife friends.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Plant Type	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Height	Location
Barberry, Japanese	Berberis thunbergii	Shrub	Yellow	May	4 to 6 ft.	Sun
Beebalm	Monarda fistulosa	Perennial	Lavender	June to Aug.	24 in.	Sun to part shade
Black-eyed Susan	Rudbeckia fulgida	Biennial or short lived perennial	Yellow, brown center	July to Aug.	24 in.	Sun
Blanket Flower	Gaillardia aristata	Perennial	Red with yellow	June to Aug.	18 in.	Sun
Boltonia	Boltonia asteroides	Perennial	White	Aug. to Oct.	48 in.	Sun to part shade
Butterfly Milkweed	Asclepias tuberosa	Perennial	Orange	July	24 in.	Sun
Coneflower Purple	Echinacea purpurea	Perennial	Purple	July to Aug.	36 in.	Sun
Coreopsis	Coreopsis lanceolata	Perennial	Yellow	June to Aug.	24 in.	Sun
Cotoneaster, Spreading	Cotoneaster divaricatus	Shrub	Rose	May	5 to 6 ft.	Sun to part shade
Dogwood, Redosier	Cornus sericea	Shrub	White	May	8 to 10 feet	Sun to part shade
Gayfeather, Rough	Liatris aspera	Perennial	Deep purple	Aug. to Sept.	36 in.	Sun
Gayfeather	Liatris spicata	Perennial	Purple	Aug. to Sept.	18 to 24 in.	Sun
Honeylocust	Gleditsia triacanthos	Tree	Greenish yellow	May	40 to 50 ft.	Sun
Lilac, Common	Syringa vulgaris	Shrub	White, Pink, Purple	May	8 to 15 ft.	Sun
Potentilla	Potentilla fruticosa	Shrub	Yellow	June to Oct.	2 to 4 ft.	Sun
Sedum, Tall	Sedum telephium	Perennial	Rose to salmon	Aug. to Oct.	18 in.	Sun
Spirea, Bridal wreath	Spiraea prunifolia	Shrub	White	May	6 to 10 ft.	Sun
Spruce, Colorado Blue	Picea pungens	Tree			40 to 60 ft.	Sun
Sumac, Staghorn	Rhus typhina	Shrub	Greenish yellow	July to Aug.	15 to 20 ft.	Sun
Wormwood	Artemisia absinthium	Perennial	Gray	July to Aug.	24 to 36 in.	Sun
Yucca	Yucca filamentosa	Perennial	Creamy white	June to Aug.	36 in.	Sun

GREEN ACRES

The Physical Resources of the Acreage—Part 1



Don Janssen
UNL Extension Educator

Note: This is part of a series of articles related to acreage enterprises.

Not all acreage are created equal. They vary widely in the types of crops they can grow. An acreage's capability to grow various crops is related to its physical resources: soils, access to irrigation water and climate. These physical resources might seriously restrict the types of crops that can be grown or might provide nearly unlimited options. Successful farming includes the ability to match crop options to your farm's capability.

Land—Types of Soils

Soils are complex mixtures of sand, silt and clay. The relative abundance of these soil components determines which soil type you have. The types of soils on your farm are directly related to crop options. The better your soil, the more options you have. Poor soils can be improved by enhancing drainage and soil tilth but never will be as versatile as good soils.

Soil maps are available that allow you to identify the exact soil types on any parcel. These maps are published in soil surveys for each county. Soil surveys include descriptions of each soil type that give some indication of the soil's strengths and weaknesses for agriculture and forestry. Contact your Natural Resource District office for the soil survey for your area. You can find their phone number in the white pages of the phone book.

You are far better off with 5 acres of great soil than 50 acres of mediocre soils. However, you might need a certain critical acreage to produce some crops economically. For example, growing grain on less than 200 acres would not support the purchase of even a used combine. While garlic can be produced on small plots (3/4 acre or less) using hand labor and a rototiller, 5 acres probably is needed to justify a fully mechanical operation.

In addition, your acreage's location can have a large bearing on your marketing options. Does it have good road access? It must be appealing to the public if you are planning direct sales. If the crop you grow requires a semi-truck for transportation, is your farm able to handle it?

Water—Potential for Irrigation

Water is another critical resource that determines crop options for your farm. Most, although not all, high-value crops require irrigation. Nurseries are heavy users of irrigation, as are vegetable operations. Christmas trees can be grown without irrigation.

Water-quality concerns such as salt content, pH or specific minerals in the water can affect its suitability for irrigation. Ask for a detailed water analysis when purchasing an acreage.



Upcoming Acreage Insights Clinics

"Acreage Insights — Rural Living Clinics" are designed to help acreage owners manage their rural living environment. This series of seminars are presented by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension at various locations in the state.

Pre-registration is \$10 per person and must be received three working-days before the program. Late registration is \$15 per person. For more information, go to the Acreage & Small Farm Insights Web site at <http://acreage.unl.edu> or contact extension at 441-7180.

The following seminars will be held in Lincoln at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road on Thursdays from 7-9 p.m.

Jan. 12 • Wildlife Enhancement

People move to the country for many reasons — one of which is to observe wildlife. But just living there doesn't assure success. Topics include:

- Where wildlife live and what they need to survive throughout the year
- Attracting wildlife to your acreage while not having them as permanent guests
- Having a diverse habitat available to increase the number of species visiting you



Feb. 16 • Growing Fruit Trees

This year's fruit-production clinic will focus on Tree Fruits for Home Production. Topics include:

- Cultivar selection
- Plant spacing
- Pollination requirements
- Planting and caring for new trees
- Pruning and training techniques for the conventional stand-alone fruit tree as well as more advanced training systems such as espaliered and trellis systems



Mar. 16 • Vegetable Gardening

Successful home vegetable gardens are the result of careful planning, including vegetable variety selection. Topics include:

- Vegetable varieties suitable for Nebraska gardens and each variety's unique attributes.
- Insect and disease control — learn to identify common pest and disease problems and strategies for controlling them



April 13 • Horse Nutrition & Management

This clinic will cover basic horse nutrition and efficient feeding-management practices. Topics include:

- Nutrient requirements of horses at different ages, activity levels and stages of production
- Determining body condition and how feeding management can change the body condition
- Effectively using different feeds and roughages (such as hay) to meet nutrition requirements



REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE CHECK WHICH CLINIC(S) YOU ARE REGISTERING FOR:

- Wildlife Enhancement**
Lincoln — Jan. 12
- Growing Fruit Trees**
Lincoln — Feb. 16
- Vegetable Gardening**
Lincoln — March 16
- Horse Nutrition and Management**
Lincoln — April 13

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

\$10/person advanced registration,
\$15/person at the door
Preregistration deadline:
3 working days before clinic.

Number attending _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Mail completed registration form and check (payable to UNL Extension) to:
UNL Extension in Dodge County
Acreage Insights
1206 W. 23rd St.
Fremont, NE 68025