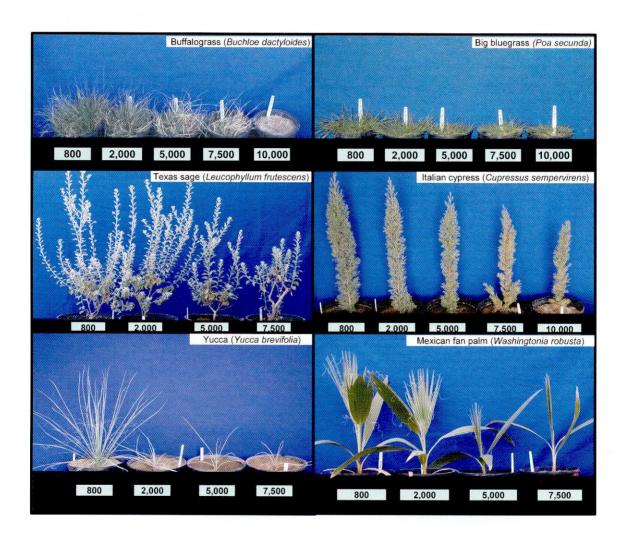
Landscape Plant Lists for Salt Tolerance Assessment

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How Salt Tolerance Tables were Developed

Plant Responses to Soil Salinity (Table Series A): The experiment to evaluate plant tolerance to soil salinity was conducted in a greenhouse. One gallon size plants were transplanted to 3 gallon pots containing loamy sand, and were irrigated with solutions of five levels of salinity; 800, 2000, 5000, 7500 and 10000 ppm for 6 months. The electrical conductivity (EC) of these solutions was, respectively, 1.2, 4.4, 9.4, 13.7 and 17 dS m⁻¹. About 80% of the salts in these solutions were in the form of NaCl. About 1/3 of the solutions applied was allowed to drain so as to avoid salt accumulation. Under this irrigation regime, salinity of the soil saturation extract (an official method of determining soil salinity) is approximately equal to the salinity of irrigation water used. Plant growth and leaf injury were recorded photographically.

Results were analyzed to determine the soil salinity which causes a 50% growth reduction or foliar salt damage on at least 25% of the leaves. In the case of turf and ground cover grasses, a 25% reduction in growth, instead of the conventional 50% reduction was used. This reflects field observation that growth of turf in high traffic area is critically important. Tested plant species were then classified into five categories, following the US Salinity Laboratory classification: sensitive (0 – 3 dS $\,\mathrm{m}^{-1}$), moderately sensitive (3 – 6 dS $\,\mathrm{m}^{-1}$), moderately tolerant (6 – 8 dS $\,\mathrm{m}^{-1}$), tolerant (8 – 10 dS $\,\mathrm{m}^{-1}$), and highly tolerant (>10 dS $\,\mathrm{m}^{-1}$). The EC values shown in salt tolerance classification must be determined in the soil saturation extract made from soil samples collected from the main root zone.

Tolerance against Saline Water Sprinkling (Table Series B): Test plants (1 gallon size) were transplanted into 3 gallon pots using a highly permeable commercial soil mix. They were taken outdoors in March, and irrigated every other day with overhead sprinklers for 30 min which delivered 1/2 inch of water. Irrigation continued until the end of September for 6 months. The experiment utilized three saline water sources: tap water (800 ppm or 1.1 dS m⁻¹), a blend of tap water and well water (1260 ppm or 2.0 dS m⁻¹), and saline well water (1850 ppm or 3.0 dS m⁻¹). The corresponding concentrations of Na in these water sources were, respectively, 145, 280, and 425 ppm, and that of Cl was 140, 360 and 590 ppm. As soon as sprinkler irrigation was completed, all pots were flushed with tap water.

Plant responses to the sprinkler irrigation were evaluated by measuring shoot growth and leaf injuries. Salinity of irrigation water and corresponding Na and Cl concentrations which caused a 25% reduction in shoot growth or leaf injury over 25% of the leaves was determined. Because of the lack of the standard method of classifying plants for spray resistance, we used the following tentative classification: sensitive (< 1 dS m⁻¹, Na and Cl < 150 ppm), moderately sensitive (1 – 2 dS m⁻¹, Na < 280 ppm, Cl < 360 ppm), moderately tolerant (2 – 3 dS m⁻¹, Na < 425 ppm, Cl < 590 ppm), and tolerant (> 3 dS m⁻¹). Additional observations of plant response to sprinkler irrigation (Table B-2) were made at a golf course where irrigation water used had a dissolved salt content of 1120 ppm (2.1 dS m⁻¹, Na = 350 ppm, Cl = 325 ppm). Tolerance of trees against sprinkler application, shown in Table B-2 is based on daily irrigation using $\frac{1}{2}$ inch per application. This scheduling is commonly used in golf courses in El Paso.

How to Use Salt Tolerant Tables

Salt tolerant tables have been used by horticulturists and landscape planners to identify salt-sensitive species to avoid damage. They are also used to identify salt tolerant species for saline conditions. Salinity of irrigation water and soils must be known in order to make the full use of salt tolerance tables. Irrigation water analysis should include the determination of Na and CI concentrations, besides the total dissolved salt contents or the electrical conductivity (EC). Soil salinity has to be measured in the soil saturation extract (Rhodes and Miyamoto, 1990), as plant salt tolerance to soil salinity is given by the salinity of the saturation extract (EC_e). Unfortunately, many laboratories use 1:1 or 1:2 extract, without knowing a way to convert the results to salinity of the saturation extract. Soil samples have to be collected from multiple locations as soil salinity is spatially variable.

Once soil and water testing results are obtained, the salt concentration factor (SCF) should be estimated by dividing soil salinity (EC_e) with salinity of irrigation water (EC_w). This parameter is a measure of salt accumulation potential, and varies not only with soil type, but also with soil and irrigation management practices used. Examples are shown in Appendix for municipal parks and golf courses in the El Paso area. If the SCF determined for a given site exceeds what is shown in the appendix, the causes of high levels of salt accumulation should be investigated prior to attempting to look for salt tolerant plants. The common causes include inadequate irrigation, high clay contents, and soil compaction.

Tolerance to Soil Salinity (Table A-1 through A-6): Soil salinity measured in the soil saturation extract can be compared directly with the plant salt tolerant values shown in salt tolerance tables. If soil salinity is determined only at one location of an area of concern, a factor of 1.3 should be multiplied to account for typical spatial variation, then compare against the plant salt tolerance level.

If salinity of irrigation water is expected to change, soil salinity upon conversion can be estimated by multiplying the projected salinity of the irrigation water to the SCF. If no soil salinity data are available, determine SCF in a similar soil type under a similar land use, or use Appendix for an estimate. The SCF increases with increasing clay contents of the soil (or the saturation water content) and with soil compaction.

Tolerance to Sprinkling (Tables B-1 and B-2): Salinity of irrigation water used for sprinkler irrigation can be compared directly with the salt tolerance levels shown in Tables B-1 and B-2. In some cases, reclaimed water is stored in a reservoir during winter months, and salinity of the supply can increase. If Na and Cl data are available, use them, instead of the conductivity value. These ions affect plant growth and increase leaf injury. In the case of pines and junipers, Cl damage occurs first as Cl ions are more mobile than Na. In broad leaf plants with rapid ion uptake, both Na and Cl seem to affect almost equally. Calcium ions usually do not affect foliar salt damage, as they precipitate on leaf surfaces upon water evaporation. Actual ion absorption through foliage and leaf salt damage will be affected by irrigation scheduling, climate, types of sprinklers used (Miyamoto and White, 2002). For visual identification of salt damage of various plant species, refer to a companion paper entitled "Photo Guide: Landscape Plant Response to Salinity".

Salt Tolerance Tables

(Tables A-1 through A-6)

Table A-1. Salt tolerance of warm and cool season grass species.

Warm Season		Cool Season		
Sensitive (<3 dS m ⁻¹)				
Black grama	(Bouteloua eriopoda)	Kentucky bluegrass	(Poa pratensis)	
		Rough bluegrass	(Poa trivialis)	
		Colonial bentgrass	(Agrostis capillaris)	
Moderately Sensitive	e (3 - 6 dS m ⁻¹)			
Bahiagrass	(Paspalum notatum)	Plains bluegrass	(Poa arida)	
Blue grama	(Bouteloua gracilis 'Alma')	Big bluegrass	(Poa secunda)	
Buffalograss	(Buchloe dactyloides)	Creeping bentgrass	(Agrostis palustris)	
Blue grama	(Bouteloua gracilis 'Bad River')	Annual ryegrass	(Lolium multiforum)	
		Intermediate wheatgrass	(Elytrigia intermedia 'Rush')	
Moderately Tolerant	(6 - 8 dS m ⁻¹)			
*	h' (Zoysia sp. hybrid)	Intermediate wheatgrass	(Elytrigia intermedia 'Topar')	
		Streambank wheatgrass	(Elymus lanceolatus)	
		Crested wheatgrass	(Agropyron desertorum)	
		Red fescue	(Festuca rubra)	
		Perennial ryegrass	(Lolium perenne)	
Tolerant (8 - 10 dS m	i ⁻¹)			
Bermudagrass	(Cynodon dactylon)	Tall fescue	(Festuca arundinacea)	
St. Augustinegrass	(Stenotaphrum secundatum)	Wild ryegrass 'Rio'	(Elymus triticoides)	
Highly Tolerant (>10	dS m ⁻¹)			
Alkali muhly	(Muhlenbergia asperifolia)	Tall wheatgrass	(Thinopyrum ponticum)	
Desert saltgrass	(Distichlis spicata)	Fults alkaligrass	(Puccinellia distans)	

^{*} Species with bold print were from our experiment.

Table A-2. Salt tolerance of evergreen shrubs and trees, and conifers.

	Shrubs	Trees		
Sensitive (<3 dS m ⁻¹)			90000000000000000000000000000000000000	
Rose	(Rosa sp.)	Holly oak	(Quercus ilex)	
Nandina	(Nandina domestica)	Leyland cypress	(Cupressocyparis leylandii)	
Red tip photinia	(Photinia fraseri)	Japanese yew	(Podocarpus macrophyllus	
Burford holly	(Ilex cornuta, 'Burfordii')	Texas Mt. laurel	(Sophora secundiflora)	
Chinese holly	(Ilex cornuta)			
Pyrenees cotoneaster	(Cotoneaster congestus)			
Cotoneaster	(Cotoneaster buxifolius)			
Texas Mt. laurel	(Sophora secundiflora)			
Moderately Sensitive (3 -	6 dS m ⁻¹)			
Oriental arborvitae	(Thuja orientalis)	Rocky Mt. juniper	(Juniperus scopulorum)	
Japanese boxwood	(Buxus microphylla)	Eastern red cedar	(Juniperus virginiana)	
Glossy privet	(Ligustrum lucidum)	Southern live oak	(Quercus virginiana)	
Indian hawthorn	(Raphiolepis indica)	Southern magnolia	(Magnolia grandiflora)	
Yaupon holly	(Ilex vomitoria)	Japanese black pine	(Pinus thunbergiana)	
Dwarf pittosporum	(Pittosporum tobira)			
Blue point juniper	(Juniperus chinenses)			
Hollywood juniper	(Juniperus chinenses)			
Spreading juniper	(Juniperus chinenses)			
Pyracantha	(Pyracantha fortuneana)			
Silverberry	(Elaeagnus pungens)			
Moderately Tolerant (6 -	8 dS m ⁻¹)			
Rosemary	(Rosmarinus officinalis)	Aleppo pine	(Pinus halepensis)	
Spreading acacia	(Acacia redolens)	Russian olive**	(Elaeagnus angustifolia)	
Bottle brush*	(Callistemon viminalis)	White pine	(Pinus strobus)	
Bougainvillea*	(Bougainvillea spectabilis)	Arizona cypress	(Cupressus arizonica)	
Coyotebush	(Baccharis pilularis)	European olive	(Olea europaea)	
Japanese euonymus	(Euonymus japonica)	Afghan pine	(Pinus eldarica)	
Oleander	(Nerium oleander)	Piñon pine	(Pinus edulis)	
Texas sage	(Leucophyllum frutescens)	Italian cypress	(Cupressus sempervirens)	
European olive	(Olea europaea)			
Tolerant (8 - 10 dS m ⁻¹)				
Four-wing saltbush	(Atriplex canescens)			
Highly Tolerant (>10 dS	m ⁻¹)	Italian stone pine	(<i>Pinus pinea</i>)	

^{*} Subject to freeze damage unless protected

Species with bold print are from our experiment.

^{**} Invasive, not recommended

Table A-3. Salt tolerance of deciduous trees.

Sine	Ill Trees	Large Trees	
Sensitive (<3 dS m ⁻¹)		7	
Apple*	(Malus sylvestris)	Arizona sycamore	(Platanus wrightii)
Pear*	(Pyrus communis)	American sycamore	e (Platanus occidentalis)
Plum*	(Prunus domestica)	Pecan*	(Carya illinoensis)
White dogwood	(Cornus florida)	Cherry *	(Prunus avium)
Crape myrtle	(Lagerstroemia indica)	Persimmon*	(Diospyros virginiana)
Japanese pagoda	(Sophora japonica)	Green ash	(Fraxinus pennsylvanica)
Desert willow	(Chilopsis linearis)	Bur oak	(Quercus macrocarpa)
Chitalpa	(Chitalpa tashkentensis)	Pin oak	(Quercus palustris)
Texas vitex	(Vitex agnus-castus)	Red oak	(Quercus shumardii)
		Willows	(Salix sp.)
Moderately Sensitive	$(3 - 6 \text{ dS m}^{-1})$		
Purple cherry plum	(Prunus cerasifera)	Cottonwood	(Populus fremontii)
Mimosa silk tree	(Albizia julibrissin)	Pistacia atlantica	(Pistacia atlantica)
Desert olive	(Forestiera neomexicana)		
Bolleana poplar	(Populus alba)		
Moderately Tolerant (6 - 8 dS m ⁻¹)		
Pomegranate	(Punica granatum)	Black gum	(Nyssa sylvatica)
Pistache, texas	(Pistacia texana)	Sweet gum	(Liquidambar styraciflua)
Pistache, chinese	(Pistacia chinensis)		
Siberian elm	(Ulmus pumila)		
lerant (8 - 10 dS m ⁻¹)			
Honey mesquite	(Prosopis glandulosa)	Chilean mesquite (Prosopis chilensis)
Black locust	(Robinia pseudoacacia)	Honey locust (Gleditsia triacanthos inermis)
Salt cedar	(Tamarix sp.)**		

^{*} These ratings are for fruit production. ** Highly invasive, not recommended

Species with bold print are from our experiment.

Table A-4. Salt tolerance of plants native to the Southwest.

Shrubs/Agave		Trees	
Sensitive (<3 dS m	·1)		
Yucca	(Yucca brevifolia)	Western red bud	(Cercis occidentalis)
Bird of paradise	(Caesalpinia mexicana)	Arizona sycamore	(Platanus wrightii)
•	(Sophora secundiflora)	Desert willow	(Chilopsis linearis)
Guayule	(Parthenium argentatum)	Texas vitex	(Vitex agnus-castus)
Moderately Sensiti	ve (3 - 6 dS m ⁻¹)		
		Cottonwood	(Populus fremontii)
Silverberry	(Elaeagnus pungens)	Desert olive	(Forestiera neomexicana)
•		Seep willow	(Baccharis salicifolia)
Moderately Tolera	nt (6 - 8 dS m ⁻¹)		
Coyotebush	(Baccharis pilularis)		
Agave	(Agave parryi)		
Tolerant (8 - 10 dS	S m ⁻¹)		
Texas sage	(Leucophyllum frutescens)	Piñon pine	(Pinus edulis)
Century plants	(Agave americana)	Honey mesquite	(Prosopis glandulosa)
Highly Tolerant (>	-10 dS m ⁻¹)		
Pickleweed	(Allenrolfea occidentals)	Screwbean mesquite	(Prosopis pubescens)

Table A-5. Salt tolerance of palm species.

Species		Foliar injuries ¹
Sensitive (<3 dS m ⁻¹)		
Cabbage palm	(Sabal palmetto)	Recognizable
Pindo palm	(Butia capitata)	Minimal if any
Chinese windmill palm	(Trachycarpus fortunei)	Recognizable
Moderately Sensitive (3 - 6 dS m ⁻¹)		
Mexican blue fan palm	(Brahea armata)	Minimal
Brazilian fan palm	(Trithrinax brasiliensis)	Recognizable
Dwarf blue palmetto	(Sabal minor 'Riverside')	Minimal
Moderately Tolerant (6 - 8 dS m ⁻¹)		
Mexican fan palm	(Washingtonia robusta)	None
California fan palm	(Washingtonia filifera)	None
Tolerant (8 - 10 dS m ⁻¹)		
Canary Island date palm	(Phoenix canariensis)	None
Date palm	(Phoenix dactylifera)	None

Projected leaf injury at the upper limit of applicable salinity Species with bold print are from our experiment.

Table A-6. Salt tolerances of vines, ground cover and bedding plants.

Sensitive (<3 dS m ⁻¹)	Care Care		
Virginia creeper	(Parthenocissus quinquefolia)	Vinca	(Vinca major)
English ivy	(Hedera helix)	Asian jasmine	(Trachelospermum asiaticum)
Star jasmine	(Trachelospermum jasminoides)	Carolina jasmine	(Gelsemium sempervirens)
Japanese honeysuckle	(Lonicera japonica)	Spring cinquefoil	(Potentilla tabernaemontanii)
Lily of the Nile	(Agapanthus africanus)	Mexican primrose	(Oenothera berlandieri)
Begonia	(Begonia sp.)*		
Gerbera	(Gerbera jamesonti)		
Moderately Sensitive (3	- 6 dS m ⁻¹)		
Coleus	(Coleus hybridus)*	Trailing lantana	(Lantana montevidensis)
Carnation	(Dianthus sp.)*	Lantana	(L. camara)
Aster	(Aster sp.)	Spreading acasia	(Acacia redolens)
Moderately Tolerant (6	- 8 dS m ⁻¹)		
Germanium	(Pelargonium sp.)*	Fountaingrass	(Pennisetum setaceum)
		Juniper	(Juniperus chinensis)
		Coyote brush	(Baccharis pilularis)
		Spider plant	(Chlorophytum comosum)*
Tolerant (8 - 10 dS m ⁻¹)			
		Bougainvillea	(Bougainvillea spectabillis)*
		Creeping boobialla	(Myoporum parvifolium)
		Ice plant	(Carpobrotus chilensis)
		Trailing ice plant	(Lampranthus spectabilis)
			- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

^{*} Subject to freeze damage without protection or used as annual. Species with bold print are from our experiment.

Spray Resistant Tables

(Tables B-1 and B-2)

Table B-1. Spray Resistance: Ground Covers, Shrubs and Tree Seedlings.

Plan	t Name	_	Plant Name		
Common	Scientific	Classification ¹	Common	Scientific	Classification ¹
Flowering Annuals	and Perennials		Shrubs		
Tea rose	Rosa sp. Hybrid Tea	S	Nandina	Nandina domestica	S
Lily of the Nile	Agapanthus africanu			ip" Photinia fraseri	S
Crape myrtle	Lagerstroemia indica	S	Pyracantha	Pyracantha fortuneana	
Gazania	Gazania sp.	MS	Dwarf rosemary	Rosmarinus officinalis	MS
Texas sage	Leucophyllum	MS	Wild lilac	Ceanothus	MS
	frutescens			thyrsiflorus	1415
"Lady Banks"	Rosa banksiae	MT	Yaupon holly	Ilex vomitoria	MT
Rose			Euonymous	Euonymus japonica	MT
Trailing lantana	Lantana	MT	Indian hawthorne	Raphiolepis indica	MT
	montevidensis		Buffalo juniper	Juniperus sabina	MT
Verbena	Verbena sp.	MT	J T	'Buffalo'	1,11
Sunflower	Helianthus sp.	T	Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster	MT
	•			buxifolius	
			Japanese boxwood	Buxus micropylla	Т
			Oleander	Nerium oleander	T
Vines and Ground	Covers		Tree Seedlings		
Vinca	Vinca major	S	Pistachie 'UCB-3'	Pistacia spp.	S
Grape	Vitus sp.	S	Plum	Prunus domestica	S
Japanese	Lonicera japonica	MS	Apricot	Prunus americana	S
honeysuckle	•		Mexican buckeye	Ungnadia speciosa	S
Liriope	Liriope muscari	MS	Chinese pistache	Pistachia chinensis	S
Star jasmine	Trachelospermum	MS	Sweet gum	Liquidambar	S
	jasminoides		8	styraciflua	2
Asian jasmine	Trachelospermum	MS	Wax-leaf Ligustrum	Ligustrum japonicum	MS
	asiaticum		Afghan pine	Pinus eldarica	MT
Carolina jasmine	Gelsemium	MS	Mexican stone pine	Pinus cembroides	Т
	sempervirens				•
English ivy	Hedera helix	MT			
Strawberry	Fragaria sp.	T			

S: Sensitive (< 1 dS m⁻¹, Na and Cl < 150 ppm), MS: moderately sensitive (1 – 2 dS m⁻¹, Na < 280 ppm, Cl < 360 ppm), MT: moderately tolerant (2 – 3 dS m⁻¹, Na < 425 ppm, Cl < 590 ppm), and T:tolerant (> 3 dS m⁻¹). Species with bold print are from our experiment.

Table B-2. Spray Resistance: Mature Trees.

Pecans	mage at 150 to 200 ppm of Na and Cl) Carya illinoensis	Tip then margin burn
Cottonwood	Populus fremontii	Margin burn then defoliation
Sycamore	Platanous acerifolia	Margin then entire leafburn
Western Soapberry	Sapindus drummondii	Tip-burn
nsitive (Severe damage at 350 j	ppm of Na or Cl)	
Silverberry	Elaeagnus pungens	Margin burn and defoliation
Pomegranate	Punica granatum	Margin burn and defoliation
Honey Locust	Gleditsia triacanthos	Tipburn, then defoliation
Black Locust	Robina pseudoacacia	Tipburn, then defoliation
Chinese Pistache	Pistacia chinensis	Tipburn, then defoliation
Shumard Red Oak	Quercus shumardii	Tipburn, then defoliation
Bur Oak	Quercus macrocarpa	Tipburn, then defoliation
White Mulberry	Morus alba	Margin burn then defoliati
Poplar	Populus sp.	Margin burn then defoliati
Mimosa	Acacia baileyana	Tipburn then defoliation
Arizona Cypress	Cupressus arizonica	Defoliation
Oriental Arborvitae	Thuja orientalis	Defoliation
Osage Orange	Maclura pomifera	Defoliation
Ornamental Pears	Pyrus communis	Defoliation
Arizona, Ash	Fraxinus velutina	Tipburn then defoliation
	ble damage at 350 ppm of Na or Cl)	
Raywood Ash	Fraxinus angustifolia	Tipburn, then defoliation
Globe Willow	Salix matsudana 'umbraculifera'	Tipburn then defoliation
Corkscrew Willow	Salix matsudana 'tortuosa'	Tipburn then defoliation
Weeping Willow	Salix babylonica	Tipburn then defoliation
Japanese Pagoda Tree	Sophora japonica	Tipburn then defoliation
Live Oak	Quercus virginiana	Tipburn, then defoliation
Chittamwood	Bumelia lanuginosa	Tipburn, then defoliation
Texas Vitex	Vitex agnus-castus	Tipburn, then defoliation
	ccasional damage at 350 ppm of Na or Cl	
European Olive	Olea europaea	Tipburn
Desert Willow	Chilopsis linearis	Tipburn
Holly Oak	Quercus ilex	Slight to no injury
Alligator Juniper	Juniperus deppeana pachyphlaea	Slight to no injury
Juniper	Juniperus chinensis	Slight to no injury
Rocky Mt. Juniper	Juniperus scopulorum	Slight to no injury
Honey Mesquite	Prosopis grandulosa	Slight to no injury
olerant (No damage at 350 ppr	1 0	
Italian Cypress	Cupressus sempervirens	No injury
Hollywood Juniper	Juniperus chinensis 'Torulosa'	No injury
Dwarf Pittosporum	Pittosporum tobia, compacta	No injury
Oleander	Nerium oleander	No injury
Ligustrum	Ligustrum japonica	No injury
Euonyomus	Euonyomus japonica	No injury
Japanese Black Pine	Pinus thunbergiana	No injury
Afghan Pine	Pinus eldarica	No injury
Aleppo Pine	Pinus halepensis	No injury
Italian Stone Pine	Pinus pinea	No injury

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Related Publications

Miyamoto, S., I Martinez, M. Padilla, A. Portillo and D. Ornelas, 2004. Photo guide: Landscape plant response to soil salinity. Texas A&M Univ. Research Center and El Paso Water Utilities. March, 2004.

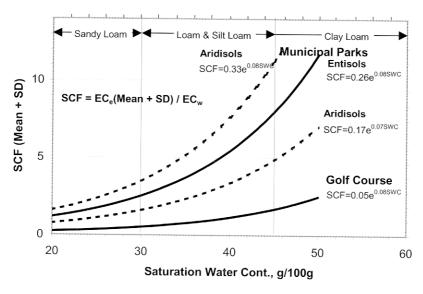
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Appendix: Salt Concentration Factors



Appendix I. The salt concentration factor (SCF) expressed as the mean plus the standard deviation (SD) as related to the saturation water content or soil textures of golf courses and municipal parks. The lines drawn are the best fit lines based on actual soil salinity measurements.

