

# Bobby & Lynn's Plant Farm

REAL PLANTS. REAL PEOPLE. REAL PASSION.

## I Have a Difficult Area

A practical guide for matching the right plant to a challenging spot in your yard

A difficult area usually is not a bad area - it simply needs the right plant. Start by identifying the main challenge, then choose plants that naturally tolerate those conditions instead of fighting the site.

### First, Check These Four Things

1

#### LIGHT

Full sun, part sun, or shade?

2

#### SOIL

Dry, average, or often wet?

3

#### SPACE

How tall and wide can it grow?

4

#### PRESSURE

Deer, roots, slope, or heat?

### Match the Challenge to Better Plant Choices

DIFFICULT AREA	WHAT TO LOOK FOR	PLANT IDEAS	AVOID
Hot, dry full sun	Drought tolerant; deep roots; heat resistant	Coneflower, black-eyed Susan, butterfly weed	Moisture-loving plants
Deep or afternoon shade	Shade tolerant; foliage interest; moderate size	Hosta, oakleaf hydrangea, inkberry holly	Full-sun bloomers
Wet or poorly drained soil	Tolerates periodic moisture; sturdy roots	Buttonbush, sweetspire, red twig dogwood	Plants needing sharp drainage
Slope or erosion-prone spot	Spreading roots; low maintenance; soil-holding habit	Creeping phlox, juniper, native grasses	Constantly thirsty plants
Tight bed or small corner	Compact mature size; upright or mounded habit	Dwarf hydrangea, compact weigela, small spirea	Fast-growing large shrubs
Deer-browsed area	Aromatic, fuzzy, thorny, or less-palatable foliage	Bee balm, lavender, salvia, ornamental grasses	Known deer favorites

### Simple Site Test

Check the area at 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m., and 6 p.m. Note the sun, soil moisture, and any nearby roots or runoff before choosing a plant.

### Helpful Plant Search Words

- dry shade plant
- wet soil shrub
- compact flowering shrub
- deer-resistant perennial
- plants for slopes
- heat-tolerant full sun plant