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Plants for Acid Soil

The following list includes plants suitable for Long Island Gardens which prefer acid soil, i.e. soil with a pH of 5.0-5.5. With a rare exception, you can assume that any other cultivated plant not on the list prefers soil ranging closer to the neutral point 6.0-6.5. A soil pH test will determine the pH and amendments necessary to achieve the optimum pH. Limestone is recommended as a soil additive to raise the pH. To lower pH, add a sulfur product (ie. finely ground sulfur), according to label directions. *See Home Grounds Fact Sheet A-1-0.*

- *Amelanchier canadensis*, shadbush, serviceberry
- *Anemone quinquefolia*, wood anemone
- *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, bearberry
- *Aronia arbutifolia* or *A. melanocarpa*, chokeberry
- *Baptisia australis*, blue false indigo
- *Callicarpa dichotoma*, purple beautyberry
- *Calluna vulgaris*, heather
- *Celastrus scandens*, bittersweet
- *Chamaecyparis obtusa*, hinoki cypress
- *Chionanthus virginicus*, fringe tree
- *Cimicifuga americana*, bugbane
- *Clethra alnifolia*, sweet pepperbush
- *Convallaria majalis*, lily of the valley
- *Coreopsis* sp., tickseed
- *Cytisus scoparius*, scotch broom
- *Dicentra eximia*, fringed bleeding heart
- *Enkianthus campanulatus*, red-veined enkianthus
- *Epigaea repens*, trailing arbutus
- *Erica carnea*, heath
- *Erythronium americanum*, dog-tooth violet
- *Fothergilla Gardenii*, dwarf fothergilla
- *Franklinia alatamaha*, franklin tree
- *Galax aphylla*, galax
- *Gaultheria procumbens*, wintergreen
- *Gaylussacia* sp., huckleberry
- *Gypsophila paniculata*, baby's-breath
- *Halesia carolina*, silverbell
- *Hydrangea macrophylla* hortensis, blue-flowered hydrangea
- *Ilex* sp., holly, winterberry, inkberry
- *Kalmia* sp., mountain laurel, sheep laurel
- *Lagerstroemia indica*, crape myrtle
- *Leucothoe catesbaei* and *L. axillaris*
- *Liatris graminifolia*, blazing-star
- *Lindera benzoin*, spicebush
- *Lobelia cardinalis*, cardinal flower
- *Magnolia* sp., magnolia
- *Mitchella repens*, partridgeberry
- *Myrica pensylvanica*, bayberry
- *Osmunda cinnamomea*, cinnamon fern
- *Pachysandra terminalis*, Japanese spurge
- *Paxistima canbyi*
- *Picea* sp., spruce
- *Pieris* sp., andromeda
- *Pinus* sp., pine
- *Platycodon grandiflorus*, balloon flower
- *Polygonatum pubescens*, solomon's-seal
- *Populus tremuloides*, quaking aspen
- *Pteridium aquilinum*, common brackenfern
- *Quercus* sp., oak
- *Ranunculus repens*, creeping buttercup
- *Rhododendron* sp., azalea, rhododendron
- *Rhus* sp., sumac
- *Rubus allegheniensis*, blackberry
- *Salix babylonica*, weeping willow
- *Shortia galacifolia*
- *Smilax rotundifolia*, greenbrier
- *Sorbus americana*, American mountain ash
- *Stewartia koreana* and *Stewartia Pseudocamellia*
- *Styrax japonica*, Japanese snowbell
- *Tsuga*, hemlock
- *Vaccinium* sp., blueberry
- *Xanthorhiza simplicissima*, yellow-root
- *Zenobia pulverulenta*, zenobia

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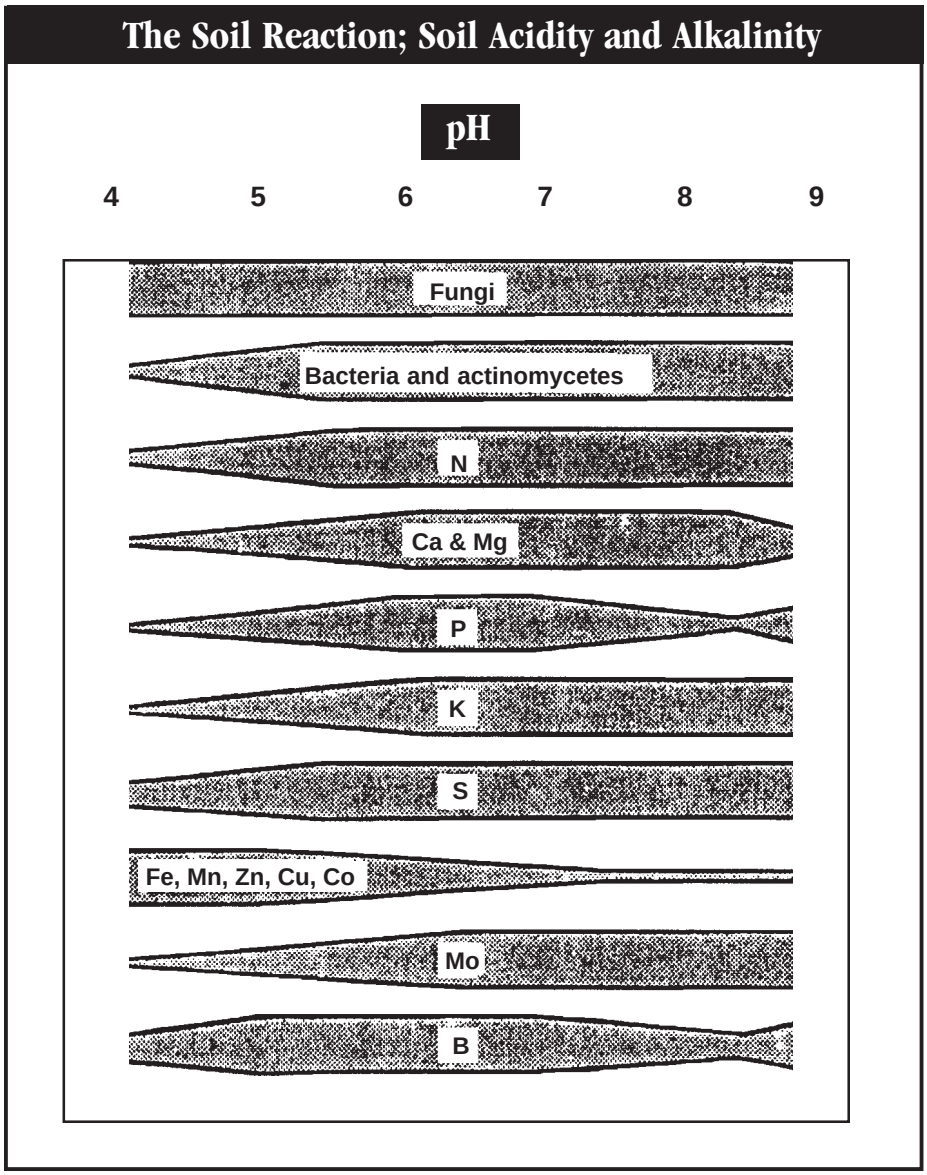

Figure 14:7. Diagram showing the relationships existing in mineral soils between pH on the one hand and the activity of microorganisms and the availability of plant nutrients on the other. The width of the bands indicate the zones of greatest microbial activity and the most ready availability of nutrients.

Considering the correlations as a whole, a pH range of approximately 6 to 7 seems to promote the most ready availability of plant nutrients. In short, if soil pH is suitably adjusted for phosphorus, other plant nutrients, if present in adequate amounts, will be satisfactorily available in most cases.

From: Nature and Properties of Soils. Buckman and Brady. Seventh Edition.