Plants Tolerant of Black Walnut Trees

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Tolerant trees and shrubs
• arborvitae, American
• ash, white
• barberry
• beech, American
• birch, black; 'Heritage' river
• buckeye, Ohio
• catalpa
• cherry, black
• crabapple
• dogwood, flowering
• elderberry
• elm, American
• forsythia
• fringetree
• globeflower
• hawthorn
• hemlock, Canadian
• hibiscus
• hickory
• holly, American
• honeylocust
• honesuckle, amur; tatarian
• hydrangea
• lilac
• locust, black
• maple, red; sugar; black; Japanese
• ninebark
• oak, white; red; scarlet
• red cedar, eastern
• redbud, eastern
• serviceberry
• spruce, Norway
• sumac
• sycamore
• tulip tree
• viburnums (some species)
• witchhazel

Tolerant vines, ground covers and flowers
• anemone
• aster
• astilbe
• bee balm
• begonia
• bittersweet
• calendula
• clematis (virginsbower)
• coral bells
• creeper, Virginia
• daffodil
• daisy, shasta
• daylily
• evening primrose
• fern
• geraniums, hardy
• goldenrod
• grape, wild
• hollyhock
• hosta
• iris, siberian
• jack-in-the-pulpit
• lamb's ear
• liriope
• lobelia
• may apple
• morning glory
• phlox
• primrose
• raspberry, black
• rose, wild
• rudebeckia
• scilla
• sedum
• speedwell
• spiderwort
• St. John's wort
• sunflower
• trillium
• tulip
• violet
• wisteria
• wisteria

Tolerant grasses
Tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass grow well near black walnut except during drought conditions when soil moisture is low.

Black walnut and allelopathy
Though grown primarily for its wood and nuts, black walnuts are often found growing on landscape sites where they serve primarily as shade trees. When certain other landscape plants are planted near or under this shade tree they tend to yellow, wilt, and die. This decline occurs because the walnut tree produces a non-toxic, colorless, chemical called hydrojuglone. Hydrojuglone is found in leaves, stems, fruit hulls, inner bark and roots. When exposed to air or soil compounds, hydrojuglone is oxidized into the allelochemical juglone, which is highly toxic.

All plants listed here are usually not affected by juglone, but there is no guarantee.