

Shade Gardening

Defining and Designing for Shade

Defining Shade

- Light shade: 25% canopy closure; direct sunlight for small portions of the day.
- Partial shade: 50% canopy closure; less than 5 hours direct sun in morning or afternoon. NO sun in the heat of the day.
- Full shade: 100% canopy closure or less than 1 hour direct sunlight.
- Deep shade: NO direct sunlight at all!

Designing a Shade Garden

1. Consider the density of the canopy. Remove trees or shrubs in order to increase light and air circulation.
2. Select plant material that will bring a variety of textures, colors, and bloom times.
3. Try incorporating native woodland vegetation into your design.

Annuals

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	
Ageratum	Ageratum	P, D
Asparagus Fern	Sprenger's Asparagus Fern	P
Begonia		F, P, D
Browallia	Browallia	P
Caladium (tender bulb)	Elephant Ear	F,P
Cleome	Spider Flower	P, D
Coleus	Coleus	F,P
Fuchsia	Fuchsia	F,P
Impatiens (single, double)	Impatiens	F,P
Lobelia	Lobelia	P
Impatiens hawkeri	New Guinea Impatiens	P
Nicotiana	Flowering Tobacco	P
Viola tricolor	Pansy	P
Torenia	Wishbone Flower	P
Tuberous Begonias		F,P
Viola	Viola	P

Short Perennials (6-12")

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	
Anemone sylvestris	Windflower	P
Convallaria majallis	Lily of the Valley	F,P
Galium odoratum	Sweet Woodruff	F,P,D
Geranium sanguineum	Cranesbill	P
Hedera helix	English Ivy	P, D
Lamium maculatum	Dead Nettle	F,P
Lysimachia nummularia	Creeping Jenny	P
Myosotis	Forget-me-not	F,P
Pachysandra terminalis	Japanese Spurge	F
Phlox stolonifera	Creeping Phlox	P
Pulmonaria	Lungwort	F,P,D
Vinca minor	Periwinkle	F,P

Medium Height Perennials (12-30")

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	
Alchemilla mollis	Lady's Mantle	F,P,D
Aquilegia	Columbine	P
Astilbe	False Spirea	P
Bergenia cordifolia	Pigsqueak	P,F
Brunnera macrophylla	Heartleaf Bugloss	F,P
Carex	Sedge	F,P
Corydalis lutea	Corydalis	F,P,D

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Medium Height Perennials (12-30") cont.

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	
Dicentra	Bleeding Heart	P
Ferns		F
Geranium	Cranesbill	P,D
Hakonechloa macra	Japanese Forest Grass	
Helleborus	Lenten Rose	F,P,D
Heuchera	Coral Bells	P
Hosta	Plantain Lily	F,P
Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal Flower	O
Physostegia virginiana	Obedient Plant	P
Polemonium	Jacob's Ladder	P
Polygonatum	Solomon's Seal	P
Tradescantia	Spiderwort	P
Tricyrtis	Toad Lily	F,P

Tall Perennials (30"+)

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	
Aralia cordata	Japanese Spikenard	F, P, D
Aruncus dioicus	Goat's Beard	F,P
Dicentra spectabilis	Bleeding Heart	P
Ligularia	Leopard Plant	P
Miscanthus Variegatus	Japanese Silver Grass	P

Shade Tolerant Trees

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Acer ginnala	Amur Maple
Acer palmatum	Japanese Maple
Amelanchier	Serviceberry
Cercis Canadensis	Redbud
Chionanthus virginica	White Fringetree
Cornus	Dogwood
Fagus	Beech

Shade Tolerant Shrubs

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Aesculus parviflora	Bottlebrush Buckeye
	Azalea
Buxus	Boxwood
Calycanthus floridus	Sweetshub/Carolina Allspice
Clethra alnifolia	Summersweet
Cornus sericea	Redtwig Dogwood
Euonymus alatus	Burning Bush
Fothergilla	Fothergilla
Hamamelis	Withhazel
Hydrangea arborescens	Smooth Hydrangea
Hydrangea macrophylla	Bigleaf Hydrangea
Hydrangea quercifolia	Oakleaf Hydrangea
Ilex	Holly
Itea virginica	Sweetspire
Rhododendron	Rhododendron
Ribes	Currant
Symphoricarpos	Coralberry/Snowberry
Viburnum	Viburnum

Shade Tolerant Conifers

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Chamaecyparis	Falsecypress
Microbiota decussata	Russian Arborvitae
Taxus	Yews
Tsuga	Hemlock