



# PLANTS FOR SHADE

LANDSCAPE · NURSERY · GARDEN CENTER

Designing a shade garden challenges the gardener to carefully consider the appropriate placement of plants in situations where they will thrive. Degrees of shade vary from light shade (intervals of sun) to heavy shade (limited reflected light only), and shady sites can be wet or dry. The gardener's appreciation of a plant's cultural needs will reward one's efforts with success. Our list of shade tolerant plants includes annuals, perennials, hardy bulbs, groundcover, woody vines, trees, shrubs and evergreens. We organized our comprehensive list according to plant category, and indicate the moisture condition for each selection, namely, wet, moist or dry. Overwhelmingly, most plants enjoy a well-drained situation, with the exception of bog plants, or plants that will survive in a wet site. We define soil moisture this way:

<b>Dry</b> – sharply drained, never standing water	<b>Average</b> – well drained, very rarely puddles
<b>Moist</b> – constantly damp, rarely standing water	<b>Wet</b> – damp soil and standing water

ANNUALS & BIENNIALS			
Common Name	Botanic Name	Soil Moisture	Degree of Shade
Ageratum	<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	Average	Light
Balsam	<i>Impatiens balsamina</i>	Moist	Heavy
Begonia, Tuberous	<i>Begonia x tuberhybrida</i>	Average	Medium
Begonia, Wax	<i>Begonia semperflorens</i>	Moist	Medium
Browallia	<i>Browallia speciosa</i>	Moist	Medium
Caladium	<i>Caladium bicolor</i>	Moist	Heavy
Coleus	<i>Coleus</i>	Average to Moist	Medium
Elephant Ears	<i>Alocasia</i>	Moist	Medium
Flowering Tobacco	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Average	Medium
Forget-Me-Not	<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Dry to Wet	Heavy
Fuchsia	<i>Fuchsia</i>	Moist	Heavy
Impatiens	<i>Impatiens walleriana</i>	Moist	Heavy
Lobelia	<i>Lobelia erinus</i>	Moist	Medium
Monkey Flower	<i>Mimulus</i>	Moist	Medium
Pansy and Viola	<i>Viola</i>	Moist	Medium
Polka-dot Plant	<i>Hypoestes</i>	Moist	Medium
Sweet Alyssum	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Average	Medium
Taro	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	Moist to Wet	Medium
Wishbone Flower	<i>Torenia</i>	Moist	Medium
PERENNIALS			
Amsonia, Texas Star	<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	Moist	Light
Anemone, Japanese	<i>Anemone x hybrida</i>	Wet	Medium
Anemone, Rue	<i>Anemonella thalictroides</i>	Moist	Medium
Astilbe	<i>Astilbe</i>	Dry to Moist	Medium
Bergenia	<i>Bergenia</i>	Dry to Average	Medium
Bleeding Heart	<i>Dicentra</i>	Moist	Medium
Blue Cohosh	<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	Average	Medium to Heavy

PERENNIALS (cont)			
Common Name	Botanic Name	Soil Moisture	Degree of Shade
Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>	Moist	Light
Celandine Poppy	<i>Stylophorum</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
Chinese Globeflower	<i>Trollius chinensis</i>	Wet	Light
Cimicifuga, Bugbane	<i>Actaea</i>	Moist	Light to Medium
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia</i>	Moist	Medium
Coral Bells	<i>Heuchera</i>	Average to Moist	Light to Medium
Coreopsis, Threadleaf	<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	Dry	Light
Corydalis	<i>Corydalis flexuosa</i>	Moist	Light to Medium
Dropwort	<i>F. vulgaris</i>	Dry	Light
Fairy Bells	<i>Disporum</i>	Dry	Medium to Heavy
False Indigo	<i>Baptisia</i>	Moist	Light
False Solomon's Seal	<i>Smilacina</i>	Wet	Light to Heavy
Foam Flower	<i>Tiarella</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis</i>	Average	Medium
Geranium, Dusky Cranesbill	<i>Geranium phaeum</i>	Moist	Medium
Geranium, Spotted	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Moist	Medium
Goatsbeard	<i>Aruncus aethusifolius</i>	Wet	Medium to Heavy
Goatsbeard, Dwarf	<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Moist	Light
Hepatica, Anemone	<i>Hepatica</i>	Moist	Light to Medium
Hosta	<i>Hosta</i>	Dry to Moist	Heavy
Irish and Scotch Moss	<i>Sagina subulata</i>	Moist	Heavy - Midday
Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium</i>	Moist	Light
Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	Moist	Light to Medium
Lady's Slipper Orchid	<i>Cypripedium</i>	Average	Light to Medium
Lenten Rose	<i>Helleborus x hybridus</i>	Moist	Medium
Ligularia	<i>Ligularia</i>	Wet	Light to Medium
Lobelia	<i>Lobelia</i>	Wet	Light
Lungwort	<i>Pulmonaria</i>	Moist	Light to Medium
Mayapple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	Moist	Light
Meadowrue	<i>Thalictrum</i>	Moist	Light
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula</i>	Wet	Light
Primrose	<i>Primula</i>	Moist	Light
Rodgersia	<i>Rodgersia aesculifolia</i>	Moist to Wet	Heavy to Light
Shooting Stars	<i>Dodecatheon</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
Siberian Bugloss	<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>	Dry to Moist	Medium
Siberian Iris	<i>Iris siberica</i>	Dry to Moist	Light
Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum</i>	Dry to Moist	Light to Heavy
Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	Moist to Wet	Light
Toad Lily	<i>Tricyrtis</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
Trout Lily	<i>Erythronium</i>	Average to Moist	Light to Medium
Turtlehead	<i>Chelone</i>	Wet	Light
Twinleaf	<i>Jeffersonia</i>	Moist	Medium to Heavy
Violet	<i>Viola</i>	Moist	Light
Virginia Bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Wet	Light
White Trillium	<i>Trillium grandiflora</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
Wood Spurge	<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Dry	Light
Woodland Phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Moist	Light
Yellow Archangel	<i>Lamiaestrum galeobdolon</i>	Moist	Light
Yellow Wax-bells	<i>Kirengeshoma palmata</i>	Moist	Light

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES			
Common Name	Botanic Name	Soil Moisture	Degree of Shade
Feather Reed	<i>Calamagrostis</i>	Moist	Light
Golden Hakone	<i>Hakonechloa m. 'Aureola'</i>	Moist	Light
Horsetail Rush	<i>Equisetum</i>	Moist to Wet	Light
Northern Sea Oats	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	Moist	Light
Purple Moor	<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Moist	Light
Sedge, Bur	<i>Carex grayi</i>	Moist	Light
Sedge, Dwarf	<i>Carex conica</i>	Average	Light to Heavy
Sedge, Palm	<i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	Moist to Wet	Light
Sedge, Tufted	<i>Carex elata</i>	Wet	Light
Sedge, Varie. Japanese	<i>Carex morrowii 'Variegata'</i>	Moist	Light
Snowy Woodrush	<i>Luzula</i>	Moist	Light
Tufted Hair	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	Moist	Light
FERNS			
Christmas	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
Cinnamon	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Moist to Wet	Light to Heavy
Hart's-Tongue	<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
Interrupted	<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
Japanese Painted	<i>Athyrium nipponicum</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
Japanese Sword	<i>Dryopteris erythrosora</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
Lady	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Moist to Wet	Light to Heavy
Maidenhair	<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
Marginal Wood	<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
Ostrich	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	Wet	Light to Heavy
Sword	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
Toothed Wood	<i>Dryopteris spinulosa</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
GROUNDCOVER			
Bear's Breeches	<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Moist	Light
Bishop's Hat, Barrenwort	<i>Epimedium</i>	Dry to Moist	Light to Medium
Bugleweed	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Average to Moist	Light to Heavy
Bunchberry	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	Moist	Light
Daffodil, Jonquil	<i>Narcissus</i>	Average	Light
Garlic and Onion	<i>Allium moly</i>	Moist	Light
Glory of the Snow	<i>Chionodoxa luciliae</i>	Moist	Light
Jack-In-The-Pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Moist	Light to Medium
Leadwort	<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	Moist	Light
Lily of the Valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
Scilla, Siberian Squill	<i>Scilla siberica</i>	Moist	Light
Snowdrops	<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Moist	Light
Spring Snowflake	<i>Leucojum vernum</i>	Moist	Light
Sweet Woodruff	<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Moist	Medium to Heavy
Trout Lily	<i>Erythronium hendersonii</i>	Moist	Light
Wild Ginger	<i>Asarum</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
Winter Aconite	<i>Eranthis hyemalis</i>	Moist	Light
Wintercreeper, Purpleleaf	<i>Euonymus f. 'Coloratus'</i>	Dry to Moist	Light
Wintergreen	<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	Moist	Medium

TREES			
Common Name	Botanic Name	Soil Moisture	Degree of Shade
Alder, Speckled	<i>Alnus rugosa</i>	Moist	Light to Medium
Carolina Silverbell	<i>Halesia carolina</i>	Moist	Light
Dawn Redwood	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Moist	Light
Dogwood, Chinese	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	Average	Light
Dogwood, Cornelian Cherry	<i>Cornus mas</i>	Average	Light to Heavy
Dogwood, Giant Gray	<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	Average to Moist	Light to Heavy
Dogwood, Pagoda	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Average to Moist	Light
Fringetree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Moist	Light to Medium
Hornbeam, American	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Moist	Light to Medium
Hornbeam, European	<i>Carpinus bet. 'Fastigiata'</i>	Average	Light
Magnolia	<i>Magnolia</i>	Average	Light
Maple, Fullmoon	<i>Acer japonicum</i>	Average to Moist	Light
Maple, Japanese	<i>Acer palmatum</i>	Average to Moist	Light
Maple, Paperbark	<i>Acer griseum</i>	Average to Moist	Light
Maple, Purplebloom	<i>Acer pseudosieboldianum</i>	Average to Moist	Light
Maple, Three-flower	<i>Acer triflorum</i>	Average to Moist	Light
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Average	Light to Medium
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier</i>	Average to Moist	Light to Medium
Seven-son Flower	<i>Heptacodium miconioides</i>	Moist	Medium
SHRUBS			
Alpine Currant	<i>Ribes alpinum</i>	Moist	Light to Medium
Azalea, Deciduous	<i>Rhododendron</i>	Average	Light
Bayberry	<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	Dry to Average	Light
Beautybush	<i>Callicarpa japonica</i>	Average	Light
Buckeye, Bottlebrush	<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	Average to Moist	Medium
Burning Bush	<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Average to Moist	Light
Chokeberry	<i>Aronia</i>	Average to Moist	Medium
Clethra, Summersweet	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Moist	Light
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster</i>	Average to Dry	Light
Dogwood, Gray	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Average to Moist	Light to Heavy
Dogwood, Redtwig	<i>Cornus alba/sericea</i>	Moist to Wet	Light
Fothergilla, Dwarf	<i>Fothergilla</i>	Average to Moist	Light to Medium
Hazlenut, Contorted	<i>Corylus avellana 'Contorta'</i>	Moist	Light to Medium
Honeysuckle, Arnold Red	<i>Lonicera t. 'Arnold Red'</i>	Average	Light
Hydrangea, Annabelle	<i>Hydrangea arb. 'Annabelle'</i>	Moist	Light to Medium
Hydrangea, Bigleaf	<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	Moist	Light to Medium
Hydrangea, Oakleaf	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Moist	Light to Medium
Hydrangea, Panicle	<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i>	Moist	Light
Japanese Kerria	<i>Kerria japonica</i>	Moist	Light to Medium
Mockorange	<i>Philadelphus virginialis</i>	Average	Light
Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Moist	Light
Privet, Cheyenne	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Average	Light
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Moist to Wet	Light to Heavy
Stephanandra, Cutleaf	<i>Stephanandra incisa</i>	Average	Light to Medium
Sumac, Fragrant	<i>Rhus</i>	Average	Light
Sweetshrub	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	Moist	Light

<b>SHRUBS (cont)</b>			
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Botanic Name</b>	<b>Soil Moisture</b>	<b>Degree of Shade</b>
<b>Viburnum, American Cranberry</b>	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	Average	Light to Medium
<b>Viburnum, American Cranberry Compact</b>	<i>Viburnum tri.</i> 'Compactum'	Average	Light to Heavy
<b>Viburnum, Arrowwood</b>	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Average	Light to Heavy
<b>Viburnum, Blackhaw</b>	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Average	Light to Heavy
<b>Viburnum, Mohican</b>	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Dry to Moist	Light to Heavy
<b>Viburnum, Siebold</b>	<i>Viburnum sieboldii</i>	Moist	Light to Medium
<b>Virginia Sweetspire</b>	<i>Itea virginica</i>	Moist	Light
<b>Witchhazel</b>	<i>Hamamelis</i>	Dry to Moist	Light to Heavy
<b>EVERGREENS</b>			
<b>Arborvitae, Eastern</b>	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Moist	Light
<b>Arborvitae, Western</b>	<i>Thuja plicata</i> 'Green Giant'	Moist	Light
<b>Boxwood</b>	<i>Buxus</i>	Average to Moist	Light to Medium
<b>Euonymus</b>	<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Dry to Moist	Light
<b>Hemlock, Canadian</b>	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Average to Moist	Light to Medium
<b>Holly, Meserve</b>	<i>Ilex x meserveae</i>	Average	Light
<b>Inkberry</b>	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Moist to Wet	Light
<b>Mountain Laurel</b>	<i>Kalmia</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
<b>Oregon Grapeholly</b>	<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Moist	Light
<b>Pine, Eastern White</b>	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Average	Light
<b>Rhododendron &amp; Azalea</b>	<i>Rhododendron</i>	Moist	Light
<b>Russian Cypress</b>	<i>Microbiota decussata</i>	Average	Light to Heavy
<b>Spruce, Norway</b>	<i>Picea abies</i>	Moist to Dry	Light
<b>Spruce, Serbian</b>	<i>Picea omorika</i>	Moist	Light to Medium
<b>Umbrella Pine</b>	<i>Sciadopitys verticillata</i>	Moist	Light
<b>Yew,</b>	<i>Taxus x media</i>	Average to Moist	Light to Heavy
<b>Yew, Upright Japanese</b>	<i>Taxus cuspidata</i>	Average to Moist	Light to Heavy
<b>WOODY VINES</b>			
<b>Bittersweet, American</b>	<i>Celastrus</i> 'Autumn Revolution'	Dry to Average	Light to Medium
<b>Clematis</b>	<i>Clematis spp.</i>	Average to Moist	Light to Medium
<b>Climbing Hydrangea</b>	<i>Hydrangea a .petiolaris</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
<b>Dutchman's Pipe</b>	<i>Aristolochia durior</i>	Moist	Light
<b>Euonymus, Sarcocie</b>	<i>Euonymus f.</i> 'Sarcocie'	Dry to Moist	Light
<b>Fiveleaf Akebia</b>	<i>Akebia quinata</i>	Dry to Moist	Light to Medium
<b>Ivy, Boston</b>	<i>Parthenocissus tricuspidata</i>	Dry to Moist	Light to Heavy
<b>Ivy, Thorndale English</b>	<i>Hedera helix</i> 'Thorndale'	Dry to Average	Light to Heavy
<b>Japanese Hydrangea</b>	<i>Schizophragma hydrangeoides</i>	Moist	Light to Heavy
<b>Kiwi, Hardy</b>	<i>Actinidia k.</i> 'Arctic Beauty'	Average	Light
<b>Porcelainberry, Variegated</b>	<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	Average to Moist	Light
<b>Silver Lace</b>	<i>Polygonum aubertii</i>	Dry	Light to Heavy
<b>Virginia Creeper</b>	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Dry to Moist	Light to Heavy