



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:

Dry – sharply drained, never standing water	Average – well drained, very rarely puddling
Moist – constantly damp, rarely standing water	Wet – damp soil and standing water

ANNUALS & BIENNIALS			
Botanic Name	Common Name	Soil Moisture	Degree of Shade
<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	Ageratum	Average	Light
<i>Alocasia</i>	Elephant Ears	Moist	Medium
<i>Impatiens balsamina</i>	Balsam	Moist	Heavy
<i>Begonia x tuberhybrida</i>	Tuberous Begonia	Average	Medium
<i>Begonia semperflorens</i>	Begonia (Fibrous Rooted)	Moist	Medium
<i>Browallia speciosa</i>	Browallia	Moist	Medium
<i>Caladium bicolor</i>	Caladium	Moist	Heavy
<i>Coleus</i>	Coleus	Average to Moist	Medium
<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	Taro	Moist to Wet	Medium
<i>Fuchsia</i>	Fuchsia	Moist	Heavy
<i>Hypoestes phyllostachya</i>	Polka-dot Plant	Moist	Medium
<i>Impatiens wallerana</i>	Impatiens	Moist	Heavy
<i>Lobelia erinus</i>	Lobelia	Moist	Medium
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Alyssum	Average	Medium
<i>Mimulus</i>	Monkey Flower	Moist	Medium
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Forget-Me-Not	Dry to Wet	Heavy
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Flowering Tobacco	Average	Medium
<i>Torenia</i>	Wishbone Flower	Moist	Medium
<i>Viola</i>	Pansy, Viola	Moist	Medium

PERENNIALS			
Botanic Name	Common Name	Soil Moisture	Degree of Shade
<i>Actaea</i>	Baneberry	Moist	Medium
<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	Lady's Mantle	Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	Texas Star	Moist	Light
<i>Anemone x hybrida</i>	Japanese Anemone	Wet	Medium
<i>Anemonella thalictroides</i>	Rue Anemone	Moist	Medium

PERENNIALS (cont)

Botanic Name	Common Name	Soil Moisture	Degree of Shade
<i>Aquilegia</i>	Columbine	Moist	Medium
<i>Aruncus aethusifolius</i>	Goatsbeard	Wet	Medium to Heavy
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Dwarf Goatsbeard	Moist	Light
<i>Astilbe</i>	Astilbe	Dry to Moist	Medium
<i>Baptisia</i>	False Indigo	Moist	Light
<i>Bergenia</i>	Bergenia	Dry to Average	Medium
<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>	Siberian Bugloss	Dry to Moist	Medium
<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	Blue Cohosh	Average	Medium to Heavy
<i>Chelone</i>	Turtlehead	Wet	Light
<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i>	Snakeroot, Bugbane	Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	Threadleaf Tickseed	Dry	Light
<i>Corydalis flexuosa</i>	Corydalis	Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Cypripedium</i>	Lady's Slipper Orchid	Average	Light to Medium
<i>Dicentra</i>	Bleeding Heart	Moist	Medium
<i>Digitalis</i>	Foxglove	Average	Medium
<i>Disporum</i>	Fairy Bells	Dry	Medium to Heavy
<i>Dodecatheon</i>	Shooting Stars	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Erythronium</i>	Trout Lily	Average to Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge	Dry	Light
<i>Filipendula</i>	Meadowsweet	Wet	Light
<i>F. vulgaris</i>	Dropwort	Dry	Light
<i>Galax urceolata</i>	Wandflower	Moist	Medium
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Spotted Geranium	Moist	Medium
<i>Geranium phaeum</i>	Dusky Cranesbill	Moist	Medium
<i>Helleborus x hybridus</i>	Lenten Rose	Moist	Medium
<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>	Swamp Sunflower	Wet	Light
<i>Hepatica</i>	Anemone Hepatica	Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Heracleum</i>	Giant Hogweed	Wet	Light
<i>Heuchera</i>	Coral Bells	Average to Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Hosta</i>	Hosta	Dry to Moist	Heavy
<i>Iris siberica</i>	Siberian Iris	Dry to Moist	Light
<i>Jeffersonia</i>	Twinleaf	Moist	Medium to Heavy
<i>Kirengeshoma palmata</i>	Yellow Wax-bells	Moist	Light
<i>Lamiaeum galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel	Moist	Light
<i>Ligularia</i>	Ligularia	Wet	Light to Medium
<i>Lobelia</i>	Lobelia	Wet	Light
<i>Mertensia pulmonarioides</i>	Virginia Bluebells	Wet	Light
<i>Omphalodes cappadocica</i>	Navelwort	Moist	Light
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Woodland Phlox	Moist	Light
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	Mayapple	Moist	Light
<i>Polemonium</i>	Jacob's Ladder	Moist	Light
<i>Polygonatum</i>	Solomon's Seal	Dry to Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Primula</i>	Primrose	Moist	Light
<i>Pulmonaria</i>	Lungwort	Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Rodgersia aesculifolia</i>	Rodgersia	Moist to Wet	Heavy to Light
<i>Sagina subulata</i>	Irish or Scotch Moss	Moist	Heavy - Middy

PERENNIALS (cont)

Botanic Name	Common Name	Soil Moisture	Degree of Shade
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Campion	Moist	Light
<i>Smilacina</i>	False Solomon's Seal	Wet	Light to Heavy
<i>Stylophorum</i>	Celandine Poppy	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Tellima</i>	Fringe Cups	Dry to Moist	Light
<i>Thalictrum</i>	Meadow Rue	Moist	Light
<i>Tiarella</i>	Foam Flower	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	Spiderwort	Moist to Wet	Light
<i>Tricyrtis</i>	Toad Lily	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Trillium grandiflora</i>	White Trillium	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Trollius chinensis</i>	Chinese Globeflower	Wet	Light
<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	Merrybells	Moist	Heavy to Light
<i>Viola</i>	Violet	Moist	Light

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Botanic Name	Common Name	Soil Moisture	Degree of Shade
<i>Calamagrostis</i>	Reed Grass	Moist	Light
<i>Carex conica</i>	Dwarf Sedge Grass	Moist	Light
<i>Carex elata</i>	Tufted Sedge Grass	Moist to Wet	Light
<i>Carex grayi</i>	Bur Sedge	Moist	Light
<i>Carex morrowii</i> 'Variegata'	Variegated Japanese Sedge	Moist	Light
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Weeping Sedge	Moist	Light
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	Northern Sea Oats	Average	Light to Heavy
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair Grass	Moist to Wet	Light
<i>Equisetum</i>	Horsetail Rush	Wet	Light
<i>Glyceria</i>	Manna Grass	Wet	Light
<i>Hakonechloa macra</i> 'Aureola'	Golden Hakone Grass	Moist	Light
<i>Luzula</i>	Snowy Woodrush	Moist	Light
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Purple Moor Grass	Moist	Light
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Ribbon Grass	Average	Light

FERNS

Botanic Name	Common Name	Soil Moisture	Degree of Shade
<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Maidenhair Fern	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady Fern	Moist to Wet	Light to Heavy
<i>Athyrium niponicum</i>	Japanese Painted Fern	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Dryopteris erythrosora</i>	Japanese Sword Fern	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	Marginal Wood Fern	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Dryopteris spinulosa</i>	Toothed Wood Fern	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>	Oak Fern	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	Ostrich Fern	Wet	Light to Heavy
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Cinnamon Fern	Moist to Wet	Light to Heavy
<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>	Interrupted Fern	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-Tongue Fern	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas Fern	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Sword Fern	Moist	Light to Heavy

GROUNDCOVERS

Botanic Name	Common Name	Soil Moisture	Degee of Shade
<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Bear's Breeches	Moist	Light
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugleweed	Average to Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry	Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Asarum</i>	Wild Ginger	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	Leadwort	Moist	Light
<i>Clematis</i>	Clematis	Average to Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Cornus Canadensis</i>	Bunchberry	Moist	Light
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily Of The Valley	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Epimedium</i>	Bishop's Hat, Barrenwort	Dry to Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> 'Coloratus'	Purple-leaf Wintercreeper	Dry to Moist	Light
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Sweet Woodruff	Moist	Medium to Heavy
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	Checkerberry, Wintergreen	Moist	Medium
<i>Geranium</i>	Cranesbill, Bigroot Geranium	Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Hedera helix</i> 'Thorndale'	English Ivy	Dry to Average	None to Heavy
<i>Iris cristata</i>	Dwarf Crested Iris	Moist to Wet	Light
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted Dead Nettle	Average	Light to Medium
<i>Liriope</i>	Lilyturf	Dry to Average	Light
<i>Pachysandra procumbens</i>	Allegheny Pachysandra	Dry to Average	Heavy
<i>P. terminalis</i> 'Green Carpet'	Japanese Spurge	Dry to Average	Heavy
<i>Symphytum grandiflorum</i>	Large-Flowered Comfrey	Dry to Moist	Light
<i>Vinca minor</i> 'Bowles'	Myrtle, Periwinkle	Average	Light
<i>Waldsteinia</i>	Barren Strawberry	Average to Moist	Light to Heavy

HARDY BULBS

Botanic Name	Common Name	Soil Moisture	Degree of Shade
<i>Allium moly</i>	Garlic, Onion	Moist	Light
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-In-The-Pulpit	Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Chionodoxa luciliae</i>	Glory Of The Snow	Moist	Light
<i>Eranthis hyemalis</i>	Winter Aconite	Moist	Light
<i>Erythronium hendersonii</i>	Trout Lily	Moist	Light
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Common Snowdrop	Moist	Light
<i>Leucojum vernum</i>	Spring Snowflake	Moist	Light
<i>Narcissus</i>	Daffodil, Jonquil	Average	Light
<i>Scilla siberica</i>	Siberian Squill	Moist	Light

WOODY VINES

Botanic Name	Common Name	Soil Moisture	Degree of Shade
<i>Actinidia kolomikta</i> 'Arctic Beauty'	Kiwi Vine	Average	Light
<i>Akebia quinata</i>	Five-Leaf Vine	Dry to Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	Variiegated Porcelain Vine	Average to Moist	Light
<i>Aristolochia durior</i>	Dutchman's Pipe	Moist	Light
<i>Celastrus</i>	Bittersweet	Dry to Average	Light to Medium
<i>Clematis</i>	Clematis	Average to Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> 'Sarcocie'	Sarcocie Euonymus	Dry to Moist	Light
<i>Hedera helix</i> 'Thorndale'	Thorndale English Ivy	Dry to Average	Light to Heavy
<i>Hydrangea anomala petiolaris</i>	Climbing Hydrangea Vine	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper	Dry to Moist	Light to Heavy

WOODY VINES (cont)

Botanic Name	Common Name	Soil Moisture	Degree of Shade
<i>Parthenocissus tricuspidata</i>	Boston Ivy	Dry to Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Polygonum aubertii</i>	Silver Lace Vine	Dry	Light to Heavy
<i>Schizophragma hydrangeoides</i>	Japanese Hydrangea Vine	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Vitis coignetiae</i>	Crimson Glory Vine	Dry to Moist	Light to Medium

TREES

Botanic Name	Common Name	Soil Moisture	Degree of Shade
<i>Acer griseum</i>	Paperbark Maple	Average to Moist	Light
<i>Acer japonicum</i>	Fullmoon Maple	Average to Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Acer palmatum</i>	Japanese Maple	Average to Moist	Light
<i>Acer pseudosieboldianum</i>	Purplebloom Maple	Average to Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Acer triflorum</i>	Three-flower Maple	Average to Moist	Light
<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Ohio Buckeye	Average to Moist	Medium
<i>Alnus glabra</i>	Black Alder	Moist	Light
<i>Amelanchier</i>	Serviceberry	Average to Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch	Moist	Light
<i>Carpinus betulus</i> 'Fastigiata'	European Hornbeam	Average	Light
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	American Hornbeam	Moist	Light
<i>Chionantus virginicus</i>	White Fringetree	Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud	Average	Light
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Pagoda Dogwood	Average to Moist	Light
<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	Giant Gray Dogwood	Average to Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Cornus kousa</i>	Chinese Dogwood	Average	Light to Medium
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Corneliancherry Dogwood	Average	Light to Heavy
<i>Halesia carolina</i>	Carolina Silverbell	Moist	Light
<i>Magnolia</i>	Magnolia	Average	Light
<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Dawn Redwood	Moist	Light

SHRUBS

Botanic Name	Common Name	Soil Moisture	Degree of Shade
<i>Acanthopanax</i>	Aralia	Average	Light to Medium
<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	Bottlebrush Buckeye	Average to Moist	Medium
<i>Aronia</i>	Chokeberry	Average to Moist	Medium
<i>Callicarpa japonica</i>	Japanese Beautybush	Average	Light
<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	Sweetshrub	Moist	Light
<i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i>	Flowering Quince	Moist	Light
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Summersweet	Moist	Light
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood	Average to Moist	Light
<i>Cornus sericea</i> 'Bailey'	Redosier Dogwood	Moist to Wet	Light
<i>Corylus avellana</i> 'Contorta'	Harry Lauder's Walking Stick	Moist	Light
<i>Cotoneaster</i>	Cotoneaster	Average to Dry	Light
<i>Daphne x burkwoodii</i> 'Carol Mackie'	Daphne	Moist	Light
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Burning Bush	Average to Moist	Light
<i>Fothergilla</i>	Dwarf Fothergilla	Average to Moist	Medium
<i>Hamamelis</i>	Witchhazel	Dry to Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Heptacodium miconioides</i>	Seven-son Flower	Moist	Medium
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> 'Annabelle'	Annabelle Hydrangea	Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	Bigleaf Hydrangea	Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i>	Panicle Hydrangea	Moist	Light

SHRUBS (cont)

Botanic Name	Common Name	Soil Moisture	Degree of Shade
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oakleaf Hydrangea	Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Common Winterberry	Moist	Light
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia Sweetspire	Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Kerria japonica</i>	Japanese Kerria	Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Cheyenne Privet	Average	Light
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	Moist to Wet	Light to Heavy
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i> 'Arnold Red'	Arnold Red Honeysuckle	Average	Light to Medium
<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	Bayberry	Dry to Average	Light to Heavy
<i>Philadelphus virginialis</i>	Sweet Mockorange	Dry to Average	Light
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Common Ninebark	Average	Light
<i>Rhododendron</i>	Deciduous Azaleas	Moist	Light
<i>Rhus</i>	Fragrant Sumac	Average	Light
<i>Ribes alpinum</i>	Alpine Currant	Average	Light to Heavy
<i>Stephanandra incisa</i>	Cutleaf Stephanandra	Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	Blueberry	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood Viburnum	Average	Light to Medium
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Mohican Viburnum	Average	Light to Medium
<i>V. plicatum</i> var. <i>tomentosum</i>	Doublefile Viburnum	Average	Light
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Blackhaw Viburnum	Average	Light to Medium
<i>Viburnum sieboldii</i>	Siebold Viburnum	Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	American Cranberrybush Viburnum	Average	Light to Medium

EVERGREENS

Botanic Name	Common Name	Soil Moisture	Degree of shade
<i>Buxus</i>	Boxwood	Average to Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Euonymus	Dry to Moist	Light
<i>Ilex x meserveae</i>	Meserve Hybrid Holly	Average	Light
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry	Moist to Wet	Light
<i>Kalmia</i>	Mountain Laurel	Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Oregon Grape Holly	Moist	Light
<i>Microbiota decussata</i>	Russian Cypress	Average	Light to Heavy
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce	Moist to Dry	Light to Medium
<i>Picea omorika</i>	Serbian Spruce	Moist	Light to Medium
<i>Picea glauca</i> 'Conica'	Dwarf Alberta White Spruce	Dry to Moist	Light
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Eastern White Pine	Average	Light
<i>Rhododendron</i>	Rhododendron & Azaleas	Moist	Light
<i>Sciadopitys verticillata</i>	Umbrella Pine	Moist	Light
<i>Taxus cuspidata</i>	Upright Japanese Yew	Average to Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Taxus x media</i>	Anglojap Yew	Average to Moist	Light to Heavy
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Eastern Arborvitae	Moist	Light
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Canadian Hemlock	Average to Moist	Light to Medium