

# Shade Gardening

Shady sites often contain more subtle colours and soft lighting, two characteristics that bring out feelings of serenity as well as solitude in the garden. In this handout, we will explore the many plant possibilities that you can combine in your shade garden. Bear in mind that not all of these plants withstand the same amount of shade. Some plants will not flower as well in shade as in partial sun e.g. *Stewartia*, *Hosta* and *Campanula*.

## PERENNIALS

*Adiantum pedatum* (Maidenhair Fern)  
*Anemone blanda* (Anemone)  
*Aquilegia x hybrida* (Columbine)  
*Astilbe chinensis* (Meadowsweet)  
*Bergenia* spp. (Pigsqueek)  
*Caltha palustris* (Marsh Marigold)  
*Campanula poscharskyana* (Serbian Bellflower)  
*Cimicifuga racemosa* (Black Snakeroot)  
*Convallaria majalis* (Lily-of-the-Valley)  
*Cornus canadensis* (Bunchberry)  
*Corydalis lutea* (Fumitory)  
*Dicentra* spp. (Bleeding Heart)  
*Doronicum cordatum* (Leopard's Bane)  
*Epimedium* spp. (Bishop's Hat)  
*Galanthus* spp. (Snowdrops)  
*Galium odoratum* (Sweet Woodruff)  
*Helleborus* spp.  
*Hosta* spp. (Plantain Lily)  
*Iris cristata* (Crested Iris)  
*Osmunda regalis* (Osmunda fern)  
*Pachysandra* spp.  
*Phlox divaricata* (Phlox)  
*Phlox stolonifera* (Creeping Phlox)  
*Polemonium* spp. (Jacob's Ladder)  
*Polygonatum odoratum* (Solomon's Seal)  
*Primula* spp.  
*Pulmonaria* spp. (Lungwort)  
*Viola odorata* (Sweet Violet)

## ANNUALS

*Begonia* (tuberous and fibrous)  
*Calceolaria integrifolia* (Slipper Flower)  
*Coleus hybridus* (Coleus)  
*Fuchsia* (Fuchsia)  
*Impatiens* spp.  
*Mimulus* spp. (Monkey Flower)  
*Myosotis* spp. (Forget-me-not)  
*Senecio hybridus* (Cineraria)

## BIENNIALS

*Digitalis* spp.  
(Foxgloves)  
*Lunaria annua*  
(Moneytree)



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## SHRUBS

*Amelanchier* spp. (Chokecherry)  
*Azalea* spp.  
*Berberis* spp. (Barberry)  
*Callicarpa bodinieri* (Beautyberry)  
*Calycanthus floridus* (Carolina Allspice)  
*Chaenomeles japonica* (Japanese Quince)  
*Corylopsis* spp. (Winter Hazel)  
*Corylus avellana* (European Filbert)  
*Cotoneaster horizontalis* (Rock Cotoneaster)  
*Enkianthus campanulatus*  
*Euonymus alata* (Winged Euonymus)  
*Forsythia* spp.  
*Hamamelis mollis* (Chinese Witch Hazel)  
*Hamamelis* x *intermedia* (Witch Hazel)  
*Hydrangea* spp. (Hydrangeas and Hortensias)  
*Ilex verticillata* (Holly)  
*Kerria japonica*  
*Kolkwitzia amabilis* (Beauty Bush)  
*Philadelphus coronarius* (Mock Orange)  
*Rhododendron* spp.  
*Sambucus canadensis* (Elderberry)  
*Spirea* x *vanhouttei* (Spirea)  
*Vaccinium corymbosum* (Blueberry)  
*Viburnum* spp.

## VINES

*Akebia quinata* (Chocolate Vine)  
*Clematis armandii* (Evergreen Clematis)  
*Clematis montana* (Anemone Clematis)  
*Clematis* x *jackmanii* (Jackman's Clematis)  
*Euonymus fortunei radicans* (Winter Creeper)  
*Hydrangea anomala* var. *petiolaris* (Climbing Hydrangea)  
*Lonicera sempervirens* (Trumpet Honeysuckle Vine)  
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia Creeper)  
*Parthenocissus tricuspidata* (Boston Ivy)

## EVERGREEN SHRUBS

*Andromeda polifolia* (Bog Rosemary)  
*Aucuba japonica* (Aucuba)  
*Buxus sempervirens* (Boxwood)  
*Camellia japonica* (Japanese Camellia)  
*Camellia sasanqua* (Fall Flowering Camellia)  
*Choisya ternata* (Mexican Mock Orange)  
*Daphne odora* (Winter Daphne)  
*Euonymus fortunei* (Euonymus)  
*Fatsia japonica*, Fatsia  
*Gaultheria shallon* (Salal)  
*Ilex crenata* (Japanese Holly)  
*Kalmia latifolia* (Mountain Laurel)  
*Leucothoe fontanesiana* (Drooping Leucothoe)  
*Mahonia aquifolium* (Oregon Grape)  
*Nandina domestica* (Heavenly Bamboo)  
*Pieris floribunda* (Andromeda)  
*Sarcococca hookerana* var. *humilis* (Sweet Box)  
*Skimmia japonica*  
*Taxus baccata* (Yew)

## SMALL TREES

*Acer japonicum* (Fullmoon Maple)  
*Acer palmatum* 'Dissectum' (Laceleaf Maple)  
*Acer negundo* 'Flamingo' (Flamingo Box Elder)  
*Alnus* spp. (Alder)  
*Cercis canadensis* (Redbud)  
*Cornus florida* (Flowering Dogwood)  
*Cornus kousa* (Kousa Dogwood)  
*Cornus mas* (Cornelian Cherry)  
*Magnolia* x *loebneri* 'Leonard Messel'  
*Magnolia* x *soulangiana* (Saucer Magnolia)  
*Oxydendrum arboreum* (Sourwood)  
*Stewartia pseudocamellia* (Japanese Stewartia)  
*Styrax japonica* (Japanese Snowbell)

## VARYING DEGREES OF SHADE

**SUNNY SITE** Receives more than eight hours of direct sun each day, with most of that in the afternoon.

**PARTIAL SHADE** Receives sunlight for less than eight hours, or sun under the dappled shade of trees.

**SHADE** Receives no direct sunlight, but may get some reflected off buildings.

**DEEP SHADE** Receives no direct or indirect sunlight -e.g.: underneath an evergreen tree or large dense shrub.

