

## Plants for Shade

Plants that will tolerate more shade are designated with an \*.

### Trees (*Botanical Name - Common Name*)

Most shade tolerant trees are small, understory trees that grow naturally in woods openings or along forest edges. They are best suited to growing in partial or dappled shade, or in morning sun and afternoon shade.

- *Acer palmatum* - Japanese Maple
- *Amelanchier* - Serviceberry
- *Asimina triloba* - Pawpaw
- *Cercis canadensis* - Eastern Redbud
- *Chionanthus virginicus* - Fringe Tree
- *Cornus florida* - Flowering Dogwood
- *Cornus kousa* - Kousa Dogwood
- *Franklinia alatamaha* - Franklin Tree
- *Halesia* species - Silverbell
- *Ilex* species - Holly
- *Magnolia virginiana* - Sweet Bay
- *Nyssa sylvatica* - Black Gum
- *Oxydendrum arboreum* - Sourwood
- *Podocarpus macrophyllus* - Plum Yew
- *Sassafras albidum* - Sassafras
- *Stewartia* species - Stewartia
- *Styrax* species - Snowbell
- *Tsuga* species - Hemlock

### Shrubs (*Botanical Name - Common Name*)

Most shrubs are also shade tolerant rather than shade loving and will grow best in dappled or partial shade or in morning sun and afternoon shade.

### Evergreen Shrubs

Plants that will tolerate more shade are designated with an \*.

- *Abelia x grandiflora* - Glossy Abelia
- \**Aucuba japonica* - Aucuba
- *Buxus* species - Boxwood
- *Camellia* species - Camellia
- *Cephalotaxus harringtonii* - Japanese Plum Yew
- *Cycas revoluta* - Sago Palm
- \**Euonymus japonicus* - Japanese Euonymus
- \**Fatsia japonica* - Fatsia
- *Gardenia jasminoides* - Gardenia
- *Ilex* species - Holly
- *Illicium* species - Anise Tree
- \**Kalmia latifolia* - Mountain Laurel
- \**Leucothoe* species - Leucothoe
- *Loropetalum chinense* - Chinese Fringe
- \**Mahonia* species - Grape Holly
- *Michelia figo* - Banana Shrub
- \**Nandina domestica* - Heavenly Bamboo
- *Osmanthus* species - Osmanthus
- \**Pieris japonica* - Japanese Pieris
- \**Pittosporum tobira* - Japanese Pittosporum
- *Podocarpus macrophyllus* - Plum Yew
- \**Prunus laurocerasus* - Cherry Laurel
- *Rhododendron* species - Azalea
- *Rhododendron* species - Rhododendron
- *Ruscus aculeatus* - Butcher's Broom
- *Sabal minor* - Dwarf Palmetto
- \**Sarcococca* species - Sweet Box
- \**Ternstroemia gymnanthera* - Cleyera
- *Viburnum* species - Viburnum
- \**Viburnum tinus* - Laurustinus

### Deciduous Shrubs

- *Aesculus parviflora* - Bottlebrush Buckeye
- *Aronia arbutifolia* - Red Chokeberry
- *Callicarpa* species - Beautyberry
- *Calycanthus floridus* - Carolina Sweetshrub

- *Chimonanthus praecox* - Wintersweet
- *Clerodendrum trichotomum* - Harlequin Glorybower
- *Clethra alnifolia* - Summersweet
- *Corylopsis glabrescens* - Fragrant Winterhazel
- \**Eleutherococcus sieboldianus* - Fiveleaf Aralia
- *Fothergilla* species - Fothergilla
- *Hamamelis* species - Witch Hazel
- *Hydrangea* species - Hydrangea
- \**Itea virginica* - Virginia Sweetspire
- *Jasminum nudiflorum* - Winter Jasmine
- \**Kerria japonica* - Japanese Kerria
- \**Lindera* species - Spicebush
- *Rhododendron* species - Native Azaleas
- \**Rhodotypos scandens* - Jetbead
- *Spiraea x vanhouttei* - Vanhoutte Spiraea
- *Vaccinium arboreum* - Farkleberry
- *Vaccinium ashei* - Rabbiteye Blueberry
- \**Viburnum acerifolium* - Mapleleaf Viburnum
- *Viburnum* species - Viburnum
- *Xanthorhiza simplicissima* - Yellowroot

### Groundcovers (*Botanical Name - Common Name*)

Many groundcovers are suited to growing in shade, even relatively heavy shade. Several vines and perennials may also be used as groundcovers.

- *Ajuga* species - Bugleweed
- \**Ardisia japonica* - Japanese Ardisia
- \**Asarum canadense* - Wild Ginger
- \**Asarum europaeum* - European Ginger
- \**Aspidistra elatior* - Cast Iron Plant
- *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides* - Leadwort
- *Chrysogonum virginianum* - Green and Gold
- \**Convallaria majalis* - Lily Of The Valley
- \**Epimedium* species - Barrenwort
- \**Euonymus fortunei* - Wintercreeper
- \**Galax urceolata* - Galax
- \**Galium odoratum* - Sweet Woodruff
- *Geranium macrorrhizum* - Bigroot Cranesbill
- *Helleborus* species - Hellebore
- *Lamium maculatum* - Dead Nettle
- \**Liriope* species - Lilyturf
- *Mazus reptans* - Mazus
- \**Mitchella repens* - Partridgeberry
- \**Ophiopogon japonicus* - Mondo Grass

- \**Pachysandra* species - Pachysandra
- \**Sarcococca hookerana v. humilis* - Sweet Box
- *Vinca* species – Periwinkle

### Vines (*Botanical Name - Common Name*)

- *Actinidia kolomikta* - Variegated Kiwi
- *Akebia quinata* - Fiveleaf Akebia
- *Aristolochia durior* - Dutchman's Pipe
- *Bignonia capreolata* - Cross Vine
- *Clematis armandii* - Armand's Clematis
- *Clytostoma calystegioides* - Violet Trumpet
- *Decumaria barbara* - Wild Climbing Hydrangea
- \**Ficus pumila* - Creeping Fig
- *Gelsemium sempervirens* - Carolina Jessamine
- \**Hedera helix* - English Ivy
- *Hydrangea anomala* ssp. *petiolaris* - Climbing Hydrangea
- *Lonicera* species - Honeysuckle
- *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* - Virginia Creeper
- *Parthenocissus tricuspidata* - Boston Ivy
- *Schizophragma hydrangeoides* - Japanese Hydrangea
- *Smilax lanceolata* - Evergreen Smilax
- *Trachelospermum* species - Star Jasmine
- *Wisteria frutescens* - American Wisteria

### Perennials (*Botanical Name - Common Name*)

- *Acanthus* species - Bear's Breech
- *Alchemilla mollis* - Lady's Mantle
- *Amsonia* species - Blue Star
- *Anemone* species - Anemone
- *Aquilegia* species - Columbine
- \**Arisaema triphyllum* - Jack-In-The-Pulpit
- \**Arum italicum* - Painted Arum
- *Astilbe* species - Astilbe
- \**Asarum* species - Wild Gingers
- \**Aspidistra elatior* - Cast Iron Plant
- *Begonia grandis* - Hardy Begonia
- *Bergenia cordifolia* - Heartleaf Bergenia
- *Brunnera macrophylla* - Siberian Bugloss
- *Carex elata* - Golden Sedge
- *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides* - Plumbago
- *Chelone obliqua* - Turtlehead
- *Chrysogonum virginianum* - Green And Gold

- *Cimicifuga* species - Bugbane
- \**Convallaria majalis* - Lily-Of-The-Valley
- *Cyclamen* species - Hardy Cyclamen
- *Dicentra* species - Bleeding Heart
- *Digitalis* species - Foxglove
- \**Disporum flavum* - Fairy-Bells
- *Eupatorium coelestinum* - Mist Flower
- Ferns (most) - Ferns
- \**Galium odoratum* - Sweet Woodruff
- *Geranium maculatum* - Wild Cranesbill
- *Gillenia trifoliata* - Bowman's Root
- \**Helleborus foetidus* - Bearfoot Hellebore
- \**Helleborus x hybridus* - Lenten Rose
- *Heuchera* species - Coral Bells
- *Hosta* species - Plantain Lily
- *Iris cristata* - Crested Iris
- \**Kirengeshoma palmata* - Golden Wax Bells
- *Lamium maculatum* - Spotted Dead Nettle
- *Lobelia cardinalis* - Cardinal Flower
- *Lobelia siphilitica* - Great Blue Lobelia
- \**Mertensia virginica* - Virginia Bluebells
- \**Phlox divaricata* - Wild Sweet William
- *Phlox stolonifera* - Creeping Wood Phlox
- \**Polygonatum* species - Solomon's Seal
- *Primula* species - Primrose
- \**Pulmonaria* species - Lungwort
- *Salvia koyamae* - Japanese Yellow Sage
- *Saxifraga stolonifera* - Strawberry Begonia
- \**Shortia galacifolia* - Oconee Bells
- *Sisyrinchium angustifolium* - Blue-Eyed Grass
- *Smilacina racemosa* - False Solomon's Seal
- *Spigelia marilandica* - Indian Pink
- *Thalictrum* species - Meadow Rue
- \**Tiarella* species - Foam Flower
- *Tradescantia virginiana* - Spiderwort
- \**Tricyrtis* species - Toad Lily
- \**Trillium* species - Wake Robin
- *Viola* species - Violet

### **Bulbs (*Botanical Name* - *Common Name*)**

Many early blooming bulbs such as crocus, scillas, snowdrops, and species tulips will grow well in areas shaded in the summer by deciduous trees. These small bulbs bloom and mature their foliage in the sun before the trees finish leafing out. The bulbs below will grow well in open or dappled shade.

- *Anemone blanda* - Grecian Windflower
- *Anemone coronaria* - Poppy Anemone

- *Begonia* species - Tuberous Begonia
- *Caladium* species - Caladium
- *Colchicum* species - Autumn Crocus
- *Crinum* species - Milk And Wine Lily
- *Crocus* species - Fall Blooming Crocus
- *Cyclamen* species - Cyclamen
- *Endymion hispanica* - Spanish Bluebell
- *Galtonia candicans* - Summer Hyacinth
- *Gladiolus callianthus* - Peacock Orchid
- *Hymenocallis* species - Summer Daffodil
- *Ipheion uniflorum* - Star Flower
- *Leucojum aestivum* - Summer Snowflake
- *Lilium candidum* - Madonna Lilies
- *Lycoris* species - Surprise Lilies
- *Muscari* species - Grape Hyacinth
- *Narcissus* species - Daffodils
- *Zantedeschia* species - Calla Lily
- *Zephyranthes* species - Rain Lily

### **Ornamental Grasses (*Botanical Name* - *Common Name*)**

- *Acorus gramineus* - Japanese Sweetflag
- *Carex* species - Sedge
- *Chasmanthium latifolium* - Northern Sea Oats
- *Deschampsia cespitosa* - Tufted Hair Grass
- *Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola' - Japanese Forest Grass
- *Sasa veitchii* - Veitch's Bamboo

### **Annuals (*Botanical Name* - *Common Name*)**

Most annuals need at least 6 hours of sun to flower well, although many will tolerate shade in the afternoon, if they have had a full morning of sun. These annuals will bloom with less sun, although all will need some sun for flowering.

- *Abutilon* species - Flowering Maple
- *Begonia* species - Begonia
- \**Caladium* species - Caladium
- *Consolida* species - Larkspur
- *Digitalis purpurea* Foxy Group - Annual Foxglove
- \**Impatiens* species - Impatiens
- *Lobelia erinus* - Edging Lobelia
- \**Mimulus* species - Monkey Flower
- *Myosotis sylvatica* - Forget-Me-Not
- *Nicotiana glauca* - Woodland Tobacco
- *Solenostemon scuttelarioides* - Coleus
- \**Torenia* species - Wishbone Flower
- *Viola tricolor* - Johnny-Jump-Up

- *Viola varieties* - Pansy

When selecting plants using this list, remember that a number of factors determine the suitability of a plant for a particular location. In addition to adaptability to shade, also consider moisture availability, soil type, hardiness and heat tolerance, and other factors.

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