



CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

SUGGESTED PLANTS FOR SHADE

Landscaping a shady area can be a challenge. Lists of "plants for shade" do not always allow for the varying degrees of shade that you will encounter. Soil type and moisture content are other factors determining plant selection. Most of the following are readily available.

Shade 1 - Partial or Dappled Shade

On the east or west side of a structure or hedge. Two to four hours of direct sun per day.
 Shade from open trees; a moving pattern of sun and shade.
 The brightest category of shade - many sun-loving plants will grow in partial shade., although flowering and fruiting characteristics may be reduced, and plants will have a more open habit.

Shade 2 - Light or Open shade

On the north side of a structure or hedge. Nearby walls may reflect additional light.
 Under high-branched deciduous trees, or trees with medium or sparse foliage; a bright shade with no direct sun.
 Filtered sun; or occasional flashes of sun, one to two hours of direct sun per day.

Shade 3 - Full Shade

A north-facing location further shaded by overhanging trees, lath, or other cover. No direct sun.
 Shade under evergreens or deciduous trees with dense, heavy foliage.

Shade 4 - Dense shade

Deep shade, as in a north-facing, narrow side-yard with overhanging trees, and walls or fences blocking reflected light. North-facing tunnel entrances.
 Under decks or in stairwells. All year-round shade.

Few plants will tolerate the combination of dense shade and competition from the roots of aggressive trees, such as the Norway Maple.

TREES		Shade Tolerance
Acer japonicum	Fullmoon Maple	1 2
Acer palmatum	Japanese Maple	1 2
Acer pensylvanicum	Striped Maple	1 2
Aesculus species	Horsechestnut, Buckeye	1 2
Amelanchier species	Serviceberry	1 2
Cercis canadensis	Eastern Redbud	1 2
Cornus florida	Flowering Dogwood	1 2
Cornus kousa	Kousa Dogwood	1
Corylus species	Filbert, Hazel	1 2
Halesia carolina	Carolina Silverbells	1 2
Hamamelis species	Witchhazel	1 2
Magnolia virginiana	Sweet Bay Magnolia	1
Oxydendron arboreum	Sourwood	1
Styrax japonica	Japanese Snowbell	1 2

SHRUBS		Shade Tolerance
Acanthopanax sieboldianus	Fiveleaf Aralia	1 2 3
Aesculus parviflora	Bottlebrush Buckeye	1 2 3
Aronia species	Chokeberry	1 2
Berberis mentorensis	Mentor Barberry	1 2
Berberis thunbergii	Green Japanese Barberry	1
Callicarpa species	Beautyberry	1 2
Calycanthus floridus	Carolina Allspice	1 2
Chaenomeles species	Flowering Quince	1
Clethra alnifolia	Summersweet	1 2 3
Comptonia peregrina	Sweetfern	1
Cornus species	Dogwood	1 2
Corylopsis species	Winterhazel	1 2
Diervilla sessilifolia	Southern Bush-Honeysuckle	1 2
Enkianthus campanulatus	Redvein Enkianthus	1 2
Euonymus alatus	Burning Bush	1 2
Fothergilla species	Fothergilla	1 2

SHRUBS		Shade Tolerance
Hydrangea arborescens	'Annabelle', 'Grandiflora'	1
Hydrangea macrophylla	Pink / Blue Hydrangeas	1 2 3 4
Hydrangea quercifolia	Oakleaf Hydrangea	1 2 3
Hypericum species	St. John's Wort	1 2
Ilex verticillata	Michigan Holly	1
Itea species	Virginia Sweetspire	1 2 3
Kerria japonica	Japanese Kerria	1 2 3
Ligustrum species	Green Privet	1 2
Lindera benzoin	Spice-bush	1 2
Lonicera fragrantissima	Winter Honeysuckle	1
Lonicera maackii	Amur Honeysuckle	1
Lonicera morrowi	Morrow Honeysuckle	1 2
Lonicera tartarica	Tartarian Honeysuckle	1 2
Myrica pensylvanica	Bayberry	1 2
Philadelphus coronarius	Sweet Mockorange	1 2
Pyracantha species	Firethorn	1 2
Rhamnus frangula 'Columnaris'	Tallhedge	1 2
Rhodotypos scandens	Black Jetbead	1 2 3
Rhus aromatica	Fragrant Sumac	1 2
Ribes alpinum	Alpine Currant	1 2
Stephanandra incisa	Stephanandra	1 2
Symphoricarpos species	Snowberry	1 2
Viburnum species, particularly:		
Viburnum acerifolium	Mapleleaf Viburnum	1 2 3
Viburnum lantana	Wayfaringtree	1 2
Viburnum lentago	Nannyberry	1 2
Viburnum opulus	European Cranberry	1 2
Viburnum prunifolium	Blackhaw Viburnum	1 2
Viburnum rhytidophyloides	'Alleghany', 'Willowood'	1 2
Viburnum rhytidophyllum	Leatherleaf Viburnum	1 2
Viburnum sargentii	Sargent Viburnum	1 2
Viburnum sieboldi	Siebold Viburnum	1 2
Viburnum trilobum	American Cranberry	1 2

EVERGREENS

		Shade Tolerance
Buxus species	Boxwood	1 2 3
Chamaecyparis species	Falsecypress	1 2
Euonymus fortunei	Evergreen Euonymus	1 2 3
Ilex species	Holly	1 2 3
Kalmia latifolia	Mountain Laurel	1 2 3
Leucothoe species	Drooping Leucothoe	1 2 3
Mahonia species	Oregon Grapeholly	1 2 3
Pieris japonica	Japanese Andromeda	1 2 3
Rhododendron species	Rhododendrons / Azaleas	1 2 3
Taxus species	Yew	1 2 3
Thuja occidentalis	Arborvitae	1 2
Tsuga canadensis	Canadian Hemlock	1 2

VINES / GROUNDCOVERS

Aegopodium podagraia	Bishop's Goutweed	1 2 3
Ajuga reptans	Bugleweed	1 2 3
Akebia quinata	Fiveleaf Akebia	1 2
Asarum species	Wild Ginger	1 2 3 4
Celastrus species	Bittersweet	1 2
Ceratostigma plumbagnoides	Blue Plumbago	1 2
Euonymus fortunei 'Coloratus'	Purpleleaf Wintercreeper	1 2 3
Galium odoratum	Sweet Woodruff	1 2 3
Gaultheria procumbens	Wintergreen	1 2 3
Hedera helix	English Ivy	1 2 3 4
Houttuynia cordata 'Chameleon'	(invasive)	1 2
Hydrangea anomala petiolaris	Climbing Hydrangea	1 2
Lamiastrum galeobdolon	Yellow Archangel	1 2 3
Lamium maculatum	Spotted Nettle	1 2 3
Lonicera japonica 'Halliana'	Hall's Honeysuckle	1 2
Lysimachia nummularia	Creeping Charlie	1 2 3 4
Ophiopogon japonicus	Mondo Grass	1 2 3
Pachysandra procumbens	Allegheny Pachysandra	1 2 3 4
Pachysandra terminalis	Japanese Spurge	1 2 3
Parthenocissus species	Boston Ivy, Virginia Creeper	1 2 3
Polygonum aubertii	Silver Lace Vine	1 2
Vinca minor	Myrtle, Periwinkle	1 2 3
Xanthorhiza simplicissima	Yellowroot	1 2 3

PERENNIALS & WILDFLOWERS

Aconitum species	Monkshood	1 2
Acorus gramineus 'Variegatus'	Japanese Sweet Flag	1 2
Actea species	Baneberry	1 2
Alchemilla mollis	Lady's Mantle	1 2
Anemone species	Windflower	1 2
Aquilegia species	Columbine	1 2
Arisamea triphyllum	Jack-in-the-pulpit	1 2 3
Arrhenatherum elatius bulbosum	Bulbous Oat Grass	1 2
Aruncus dioicus	Goatsbeard	1 2
Astilbe species	False Spirea	1 2 3
Bergenia cordifolia	Heartleaf Bergenia	1 2 3 4
Brunnera macrophylla	Siberian Bugloss	1 2 3
Caltha palustris	Marsh Marigold	1 2
Campanula species	Bellflower	1 2
Carex morrowii / 'Bowles Golden'	Japanese Sedge	1 2 3
Chasmanthium latifolium	Northern Sea Oats	1 2
Chelone species	Turtlehead	1 2
Chrysogonum virginianum	Golden Star	1 2
Cimicifuga species	Bugbane	1 2
Claytonia virginica	Spring Beauty	1 2
Corydalis flexulosa, lutea	Corydalis	1 2
Cypripedium species	Lady's Slipper	1 2 3
Deschampsia caespitosa	Tufted Hair Grass	1 2
Dicentra species	Bleeding-Heart	1 2 3

PERENNIALS & WILDFLOWERS

		Shade Tolerance
Digitalis species	Foxglove	1 2 3
Disporum species	Fairy-Bells	1 2 3
Dodecatheon meadia	Shooting-star	1 2
Doronicum cordatum	Leopards-bane	1 2
Epimedium species	Barrenwort	1 2 3 4
Eupatorium coelstinum	Mist-flower (invasive)	1 2
Fallopia / Persicaria / Polygonum (invasive)		1 2
Ferns	Ferns	1 2 3 4
Filipendula species	Meadowsweet	1 2
Geranium species, short	Cranesbill	1 2
Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola'	Japanese Forest Grass	1 2
Helleborus species	Christmas / Lenten Rose	1 2 3
Hemerocallis species	Daylily	1 2
Heuchera species	Coral-bells	1
Heucherella cvs.	Heuchera x Tiarella	1 2
Hosta species	Plantain-lily	1 2 3 4
Iberis sempervirens	Candytuft	1 2
Imperata cylindrica 'Rubra'	Japanese Blood Grass	1
Iris cristata / kaempferi / siberica / versicolor		1 2
Kirengeshoma	Waxbells	1 2 3
Ligularia dentata	Golden Groundsel	1 2
Lilium species	Garden Lily	1 2
Liriope species	Lilyturf	1 2 3
Lobelia species	Cardinal Flower, Lobelia	1 2
Luzula species	Wood-Rush	1 2 3
Lysimachia punctata	Yellow Loosestrife	1 2
Mertensia virginica	Virginia Bluebells	1 2 3
Milium effusum 'Aureum'	Golden Millet Grass	1 2 3
Monarda didyma	Bee-balm	1 2
Myosotis species	Forget-me-not	1 2
Oenothera fruticosa	Evening primrose	1
Petasites species	Butter-bur	1 2
Physostegia virginiana	Obediant plant	1 2
Platycodon grandiflorus	Balloon-flower	1
Polemonium caeruleum	Jacobs-ladder	1
Polygonatum species	Solomon's Seal	1 2 3
Primula species	Primrose	1 2
Pulmonaria saccharata	Lungwort	1 2 3 4
Rodgersia species	Rodger's Flower	1 2
Sagina subulata	Corsican Pearlwort	1 2
Sanguinaria canadensis	Bloodroot	1 2
Smilacina racemosa	False Solomon's Seal	1 2 3
Stylophorum diphyllum	Celandine Poppy	1 2 3
Thalictrum species	Meadowrue	1 2
Tiarella species	Foam-flower	1 2
Trillium species	Trillium	1 2 3
Tradescantia x andersoniana	Spiderwort	1 2 3
Tricyrtis species	Toad Lily	1 2 3
Trollius species	Globeflower	1 2
Uvularia grandiflora	Merrybells	1 2 3
Viola species	Violets	1 2 3
Waldsteinia ternata	Barren Strawberry	1 2 3

BULBS

Chionodoxa species	Glory-of-the-Snow	1 2
Convallaria majalis	Lily of the Valley	1 2 3
Crocus species	Spring Crocus	1 2
Eranthis hyemalis	Winter Aconite	1
Galathus species	Snowdrop	1 2
Muscari botryoides	Grape-hyacinth	1 2
Narcissus species	Daffodil, Jonquil	1 2
Ornithogalum umbellatum	Star-of-Bethlehem	1
Puschkinia	Striped Squill	1 2
Scilla species	Squill, Wood Hyacinth	1 2