



Landscape Plants for Shady Areas

The ability of plants to tolerate low levels of sunlight depends on the depth of the shade and other growing conditions, such as crowding, access to water, and competition for nutrients. Most of the plants in this list grow well in sunny situations as well as shade but prefer dappled shade in the middle of the day.

Except for sites where the shade is due to buildings, a shady spot is usually one with nearby tree roots that compete with other plants for nourishment and water. In locations with dense, year-round evergreen shade or the summer shade of deciduous woods, many plants will not survive unless water and fertilizer levels are regularly monitored and addressed; even then, growth may be sparse with few flowers. If shade is so dense that weeds will not grow, do not plant in that area. Consider decorative mulch instead. The kind of shade provided by widely-spaced, high-branched trees is suitable for many of the evergreen and flowering shrubs on this list if water is provided during periods of low rainfall. Some plants on this list may be endangered or threatened native species. Be sure to purchase only nursery propagated plants.

Trees and Large Shrubs (More than 15 feet)

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Native</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<i>Acer pensylvanicum</i>	Striped Maple	Yes	Striped bark – young trees
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Downy Shadblow	Yes	Early flowers, white
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Allegheny Shadblow	Yes	Early flowers, white
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	American Redbud	Yes	Spring flowers, pink
<i>Chamaecyparis obtusa</i>	Hinoki Cypress	No	Evergreen
<i>Cornus mas</i> □	Cornelian Cherry	No	Early flowers, yellow; red fruit
<i>Hamamelis mollis</i>	Chinese Witch-hazel	No	Flowers late winter, yellow
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Common Witch-hazel	Yes	Flowers fall/winter, yellow
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly	Yes	Evergreen, deer resistant
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	Yes	Spring flowers, yellow
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay Magnolia	Yes	Late spring flowers, white, fragrant
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Sourwood	Yes	Flowers summer, white
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry	Yes	Fruit attractive to wildlife
<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	Rosebay Rhododendron	Yes	Evergreen, deer favorite
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	American Arborvitae	Yes	Evergreen, deer favorite
<i>Thuja orientalis</i>	Oriental Arborvitae	No	Evergreen, deer favorite
<i>Thuja plicata</i>	Giant Arborvitae	Western U.S.	Evergreen, deer favorite
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry	Yes	Fruit attractive to wildlife
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Blackhaw	Yes	Fruit attractive to wildlife
<i>Viburnum opulus</i> var. <i>americana</i>	American Cranberrybush	Yes	Attractive fruit, leaf beetle favorite

Medium Shrubs (Mostly 6to 10 feet)

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Native</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<i>Acanthopanax sieboldianus</i>	Five-leaf Aralia	No	Tolerates difficult conditions
<i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i>	Flowering Quince	No	Early flowers, red, pink, white
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Summersweet	Yes	Summer flowers, white, fragrant
<i>Cornus alba</i>	Tartarian Dogwood	No	Winter interest, red stems
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood	Yes	Tolerates wet soil
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood	Yes	Attracts wildlife
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red-osier Dogwood	Yes	Winter interest, red stems
<i>Cornus sericea</i> 'Flaviramea'	Golden-twigg Dogwood	Yes	Winter interest, yellow stems
<i>Forsythia suspensa</i>	Weeping Forsythia	No	Early spring flowers, yellow
<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>	Vernal Witch-hazel	Yes	Late winter/early spring flower
<i>Ilex crenata microphylla</i>	Japanese Holly	No	Evergreen
<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>	Mock Orange	No	Spring flowers, white, fragrant
<i>Pieris floribunda</i>	Mountain Andromeda	No	Evergreen, white flowers
<i>Pieris japonica</i>	Japanese Andromeda	No	Evergreen, Early flowers, white
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Ninebark	Yes	Purple leaves, white/pink flowers; ragged in winter
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i> 'Lalandei'	Laland Firethorn	No	Orange berries in fall
<i>Rhododendron</i> spp.	Rhododendron	Some	Evergreen, deer favorite
<i>Rhododendron arborescens</i>	Sweet Azalea	Yes	Deer favorite, fragrant flowers
<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Swamp Azalea	Yes	Deer favorite, tolerates wet soil
<i>Rhodotypos scandens</i>	Jetbead	Western U.S.	Spring flowers, white. Tough, but ragged
<i>Ribes odoratum</i>	Buffalo Currant, Clove Currant	Western U.S.	Early flowers, white, fragrant
<i>Sambucus pubens</i>	Scarlet Elder	Yes	Spring flowers, white; red fruit
<i>Taxus cuspidata</i> varieties	Japanese Yew	No	Evergreen, deer favorite
<i>Taxus baccata</i> varieties	English Yew	No	Evergreen, deer favorite
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	American Arborvitae	Yes	Evergreen, deer favorite
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Highbush Blueberry	Yes	Attracts wildlife
<i>Viburnum alnifolium</i>	Hobblebush	Yes	Moderate leaf beetle resistance
<i>Viburnum cassinoides</i>	Witherod	Yes	Moderate leaf beetle resistance
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood	Yes	Leaf beetle favorite

Low Shrubs (Mostly under 6')

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Native</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i>	Glossy Abelia	No	Spring flowers, pinkish-white, attractive leaves
<i>Buxus microphylla japonica</i>	Japanese Box	No	Evergreen, deer resistant
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Common Box	No	Evergreen, deer resistant
<i>Cotoneaster salicifolius</i>	Willow Leaf Cotoneaster	No	Evergreen, spring flowers, white; attractive fruit
<i>Daphne mezereum</i>	February Daphne	No	Early flowers, lilac, fragrant; short lived
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Dwarf Bush-honeysuckle	Yes	Summer flowers, yellow
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Smooth Hydrangea	Yes	Summer flowers, white
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oakleaf Hydrangea	Yes	Summer flowers, white
<i>Hypericum frondosum</i>	Golden St. Johnswort	Southern U.S.	Early summer flowers, yellow
<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	Shrubby St. Johnswort	Yes	Summer flowers, yellow; tolerates drought

Low Shrubs, continued

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Native</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<i>Ilex crenata</i>	Japanese Holly	No	Evergreen
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry	Yes	Evergreen
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain Laurel	Yes	Evergreen, spring flowers, white, pink to deep rose
<i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>	Drooping Leucothoe	Yes	Evergreen, spring flowers, white
<i>Lonicera canadensis</i>	Fly Honeysuckle	Yes	Spring flowers, yellow-white
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Oregon Grape	Western U.S.	Evergreen, early spring flowers, yellow
<i>Photinia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry	Yes	Fall color, tolerates wet soil
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Cinquefoil	Yes	Long blooming, summer, yellow
<i>Rhododendron carolinianum</i>	Carolina Rhododendron	Yes	Evergreen, deer favorite
<i>Rhododendron mucronulatum</i>	Korean Rhododendron	No	Early flowers, pink; deer favorite
<i>Rhododendron periclymendoides</i>	Pinxterbloom Azalea	Yes	Spring flowers, white to deep pink, fragrant; deer favorite
<i>Rhododendron prinophyllum</i>	Rose-shell Azalea	Yes	Spring flowers, pink, fragrant; deer favorite
<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Swamp Azalea	Yes	Spring flowers, white, tolerates wet soil, deer favorite
<i>Rhododendron yedoense poukhanense</i>	Korean Azalea	No	Spring flowers, red to lilac-purple; deer favorite
<i>Rubus odoratus</i>	Flowering Raspberry	Yes	Spring flowers, purple
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry	Yes	White fruit, fall
<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>	Coralberry	Yes	Purple-red fruit, fall – winter
<i>Taxus baccata</i> ‘Repandens’	Dwarf English Yew	No	Evergreen, deer favorite
<i>Taxus canadensis</i>	Canada Yew	Yes	Evergreen, deer favorite
<i>Taxus cuspidata</i> ‘Nana’ varieties	Dwarf Japanese Yew	No	Evergreen, deer favorite
<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	Maple Leaved Viburnum	Yes	Leaf beetle favorite

Ground Covers and Vines

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Native</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<i>Akebia quinata</i>	Five-leaf Akebia	No	Fast growing, tolerates dry soil
<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	American Bittersweet	Yes	Attractive berries, fall. Do not plant the invasive Oriental Bittersweet (<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>)
<i>Chimaphila umbellata</i>	Pipsissewa, Prince’s Pine	Yes	Evergreen, requires acid soil
<i>Epigaea repens</i>	Trailing Arbutus	Yes	Evergreen, requires acid soil
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	Creeping Wintergreen	Yes	Evergreen, requires acid soil
<i>Gaylussacia brachycera</i>	Box Huckleberry	Yes	Evergreen, requires acid soil
<i>Hydrangea anomala petiolaris</i>	Climbing Hydrangea	No	Early summer flowers, white
<i>Mahonia repens</i>	Creeping Hollygrape	Western U.S.	Evergreen, early spring flowers, yellow
<i>Menispermum canadense</i>	Common Moonseed	Yes	Large leaves, rapid growth
<i>Mitchella repens</i>	Partridgeberry	Yes	Evergreen, requires acid soil
<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	Japanese Spurge	No	Evergreen
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper	Yes	Attracts wildlife
<i>Paxistima canybi</i>	Canby Pachistima	Yes	Evergreen, tolerates high pH
<i>Schizophragma hydrangeoides</i>	Japanese Hydrangea Vine	No	Early summer flowers, white
<i>Stephanandra incisa</i> ‘Crispa’	Cutleaf Stephanandra	No	Erosion management
<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	Lowbush Blueberry	Yes	Requires strongly acid soil

Perennials

<u>Botanical Name*</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Bloom Time</u>
<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	Lady's Mantle	12-24"	Yellow	Early summer
<i>Anemone japonica</i>	Japanese Anemone	30-48"	Pink, Red, White	Late summer
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Goatsbeard	36-60"	White	Early summer
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Canadian Wild Ginger	4-9"	Burgundy	Spring
<i>Astilbe</i> spp.	Astilbe	18-36"	Pink, Red, White	Summer.
<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>	Bergenia	18-24"	White, Pink	Spring
<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>	Siberian Bugloss	12-18"	Blue	Spring
<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	Leadwort, Plumbago	6-12"	Blue	Summer-Fall
<i>Cimicifuga</i> spp.	Bugbane	24-60"	White	Late summer
<i>Dicentra eximia</i>	Fringed Bleeding Heart	18-24"	Pink, White	Spring – late summer
<i>Doronicum</i> spp.	Leopard's Bane	12-24"	Yellow	Spring
<i>Epimedium</i> spp.	Barrenwort	12-18"	Yellow, Red, White	Spring
	Fern, Various	12-36"		
<i>Helleborus</i> spp.	Christmas or Lenten Rose	12-18"	Green, White, Pink Maroon	Late winter.
<i>Hosta</i> spp.	Plantain Lily	6-30"	White, Lavender	Summer
<i>Kirengeshoma palmata</i>	Yellow Waxbells	36-48"	Yellow	Late summer
<i>Liriope muscari</i>	Lilyturf	18-24"	Purple, White	Summer
<i>Primula</i> spp.	Primrose	6-30"	Yellow, Pink, Red, Lilac	Spring
<i>Pulmonaria saccharata</i>	Lungwort	12-18"	Blue, Pink, White	Spring
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Foam Flower	12-15"	White	Late spring
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	Globe Flower	12-30"	Yellow	Late spring

Spring Bulbs

Bulbs that flower early and mature before trees are in full leaf are suitable for a shade garden.

<u>Botanical Name*</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<i>Anemone blanda</i>	Windflower, Greek Anemone	4-6"	Blue, pink rose, white	Requires good drainage
<i>Chionodoxa luciliae</i>	Glory-of-the-snow	5-8"	Blue, pink, white	Rapid spreader
<i>Crocus</i> spp.	Crocus	3-6"	purple, yellow, violet, white, striped	Deer favorite
<i>Eranthus</i> spp.	Winter Aconite	4-6"	Yellow	Spreader
<i>Erythronium</i> spp.	Trout Lily	6-12"	cream, white, yellow, violet, pink, spotted, mottled	Tolerates wet soil
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Snowdrop	4-6"	white	Deer resistant
<i>Muscari</i> spp.	Grape Hyacinth	6-10"	Blue, white	Deer resistant
<i>Narcissus</i> spp.	Daffodil, Jonquil	6-18"	Yellow, white, orange	Deer resistant
<i>Scilla</i> spp.	Scilla, Squill	4-6"	Blue, white	Deer resistant

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