

Ferns for Shade

Ferns grow well in partial to full shade and are low maintenance. They prefer soil rich in humus, but they will grow in any soil, as long as they have sufficient water and nutrients. Various fern species can also be grown in containers on a shady balcony or terrace.

- Adiantum pedatum
- Athyrium
- Dryopteris
- Matteuccia struthiopteris
- Osmunda
- Phyllitis scolopendrium
- Polystichum



Adiantum



Athyrium

Perennials for Wet or Boggy Shade

This shade bed is in the low point of the garden, perhaps adjacent to a pond or stream. Soil in this garden is constantly moist to wet with moderate to heavy shade.

Full Shade

- Aruncus
- Athyrium filix-femina
- Brunnera macrophylla
- Hakonechloa macra 'Sunflare'
- Heucherella
- Hosta
- Osmunda cinnamomea
- Sanguinaria canadensis
- Tricyrtis hirta



Heucherella

Part Shade

- Actaea simplex
- Darnera peltata
- Dicentra Formosa
- Filipendula 'Red Umbrellas'
- Gunnera manicata
- Kirengeshoma palmata
- Iris
- Ligularia 'The Rocket'
- Rodgersia pinnata 'Fireworks'



Helleborus niger

Perennials for Dry Shade

Dry shade areas receive little to no sun, and there can be dense overhead trees. The soil can be lean, low on nutrients, and with little moisture. Amending the soil with organic compost can help the ground retain moisture and provide a more suitable environment for plant roots. Replenishing the soil with organic matter each year helps plants growing in dry shade perform and look their best. Give plants in dry shade the best start possible by keeping them well-watered during the first two years of growth. Most of the varieties listed below tolerate dry soil but will also perform in moist well-draining soils.

Full Shade

- Asarum europaeum
- Astilbe chinensis Vision Series
- Aстранtia major
- Convallaria majalis
- Dicentra spectabilis
- Dryopteris erythrosora 'Brilliance'
- Epimedium x rubrum
- Helleborus
- Polygonatum
- Polystichum
- Tiarella

Part Shade

- Acanthus mollis
- Ajuga reptans
- Anemone japonica
- Bergenia
- Geranium
- Thalictrum



Dryopteris 'Brilliance'



Convallaria Rosea



Tiarella

Shade Loving PERENNIALS



For more information on
Shade Loving perennials, visit
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The shade garden evokes a calm, inviting feeling. It beckons you into the garden with wisps of coolness and earthy smells. Having a shady area in your landscape is an opportunity to discover many of the shade loving perennials available.

Shade can vary by season, and by time of day. Morning sun is cooler and preferred whereas afternoon sun is hotter, and few shade plants thrive in this condition.

Light to Partial Shade Shady for less than four hours a day. This could be an area where sunlight filters through leafy (deciduous) trees with high branches, an east or west facing slope, or the shady side of a building.

Full Shade These are areas where shade is constant and very minimal direct sun light.



Trillium grandiflorum



Alchemilla mollis



Astilbe chinensis

Perennials for Full to Part Shade

This garden emphasises on foliage, colour and texture which grow well in deep shade.

- Aegopodium
- Ajuga reptans
- Arisaema
- Aruncus 'Guinea Fowl'
- Asarum
- Astilbe x arendsii
- Astrantia major
- Convallaria majalis
- Dicentra
- Epimedium
- Hakonechloa 'Sunflare'
- Helleborus
- Hepatica nobilis
- Heucherella
- Hosta
- Ligularia
- Lysimachia clethroides
- Mertensia virginica
- Parthenocissus quinquefolia
- Polemonium
- Polygonatum



Hakonechloa 'Sunflare'

Landscaping Shady Areas - create unique design opportunities. Walk around in the sunniest part of your yard for several minutes and then step into a shady spot. As your eyes adjust to the light, notice how much more detail you can see and how you look more carefully, to take in all those details.

Foliage makes an impact in the shade. Many perennials offer sumptuous appeal with different leaf patterns, shapes, sizes, textures and colours. Contrasting dark and light foliage creates visual excitement in the shade. Plants with variegated foliage such as **Hosta** and **Brunnera** are effective at brightening the shady areas. Foliage in shades of yellow and gold also shine, illuminating dim areas.

Textures of shade plants strengthen this contrast. We can be attracted to toothy scallop-shaped leaves or smooth and glossy blades. **Dicentra's** lacy and delicate foliage is striking when paired with deeply cupped and corrugated **Hosta**.

Astilbe, Astrantia, Digitalis and **Hellebore** are all examples of flowering shade plants which can be woven throughout the garden to create a sense of movement or flow. Let plants in the shade garden be informal, spilling over the edges of pathways, to create a more natural effect. Naturalizing

- Pulmonaria
- Tiarella wherryi
- Tricyrtis
- Trillium
- Veronica spicata
- Vinca minor

Perennials for Partial Shade

This garden can tolerate more light and features more flowering plants.

- Acanthus mollis
- Aconitum
- Actaea
- Alchemilla mollis
- Amsonia 'Blue Ice'
- Anemone
- Aquilegia
- Aralia cordata 'Sun King'
- Arctostaphylos
- Aruncus
- Astilbe
- Astilboides tabularis
- Astrantia major
- Baptisia australis
- Bergenia
- Bletilla



Aegopodium

groundcovers like **Epimedium** in the shade garden can lend a softer and quieter feel.

Soil preparation prior to planting is essential to the longterm success of the shade garden. Once plants are established, drainage and aeration are challenging to correct without removing the plants. Organic matter should be added to improve the drainage and quality of the soil.

A layer of organic matter 10-15 cm (4-6") deep, such as well-rotted manure, compost, peat moss, decomposed bark, or leaf mold should be worked into the soil by digging, spading, or rotary tilling.

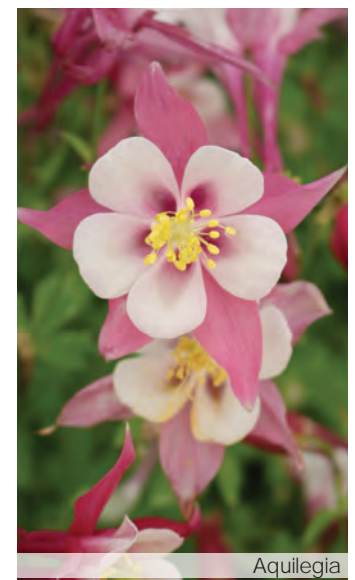
Another key consideration is the moisture retention of your soil. Many perennials are adaptable to soils with varied moisture levels, while other perennials are very specific to moisture level. See our list for wet or dry conditions.



Geranium

- Brunnera macrophylla
- Carex oshimensis
- Chelone
- Cornus canadensis
- Dicentra
- Digitalis
- Eupatorium
- Euphorbia
- Filipendula
- Galium odoratum
- Gaultheria procumbens
- Geranium
- Gunnera 'Manicata'
- Hakonechloa macra
- Hemerocallis
- Heuchera
- Hosta
- Iris
- Kirengeshoma palmata
- Ligularia
- Phalaris arundinacia
- Rodgersia
- Sanguinaria canadensis
- Tiarella
- Tradescantia

- Tricyrtis
- Trollius
- Veronica spicata
- Viola cornuta
- Yucca



Aquilegia