



# Plants for Shady Spots

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Shade gardens can differ drastically depending on your specific site conditions. Consider the density of the shade (full shade from a building vs dappled light from a leaf tree), what time of day the shade is present and what type of soil you have.

- Full Sun: All day sun; 6+ hours of sun in the afternoon
- Partial Shade: Morning sun and afternoon shade; filtered sun all day
- Full Shade: Little to no direct sun during the day

Planting under trees can also present challenges because of shallow roots and competition from an established tree. Starting with an adequate sized hole to lessen competition can help, and consider additional soil if tree roots are too shallow. Irrigation is recommended under evergreens since the shallow roots and dense canopy leave extra dry conditions.

## Perennials

Anemone 'Snowdrop'

## Shade Tolerance

Partial

## Notes

Groundcover

Appalachian Sedge *Carex appalachica*

Partial to Full

Moist soil

Astilbe

Partial to Full

Moist soil

Bleeding Heart *Dicentra*

Partial to Full

Brunnera

Partial to Full

Bugleweed *Ajuga reptans*

Partial to Full

Groundcover

**Bunchberry Dogwood** *Cornus canadensis*

Partial to Full

Cool, moist soil

Columbine *Aquilegia*

Partial to Full

Tolerance variety dependent

Coral Bells *Heuchera*

Full

Moist soil

**Creeping Oregon Grape** *Mahonia repens*

Partial to Full

Groundcover

Dead Nettle *Lamium*

Partial to Full

Groundcover

Hosta

Partial to Full

Moist soil

**Kinnikinnick (Bearberry)** *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

Partial to Full

Well drained soil

## Native

## Perennials

Lady's Mantle *Alchemilla mollis*

Lungwort *Pulmonaria*

Periwinkle *Vinca minor*

Rayflower *Ligularia*

**Roundleaf Alumroot *Heuchera cylindrica***

Silver Carpet Lamb's Ear

Siskiyou Blue Fescue

**Smooth Aster *Symphyotrichum laeve***

Snow-on-the-Mountain *Aegopodium podagraria* 'Variegata'

Soapwort *Saponaria*

Sweet Woodruff *Galium odoratum*

**Western Virgins Bower *Clematis ligusticifolia***

**Wild Mint *Mentha arvensis***

## Shade Tolerance

Partial to Full

Partial to Full

Partial to Full

Partial to Full

Partial

Partial to Full

Partial

Partial

Partial to Full

Partial

Partial to Full

Partial

Partial

## Notes

Groundcover

Groundcover

Moist soil

Groundcover

Aggressive spreader

Groundcover

Groundcover

Groundcover or vine

## Shrubs

Alpine Currant *Ribes alpinum*

**American Red Elder *Sambucus racemosa***

**Blue Elderberry *Sambucus cerulea***

Dwarf Fothergilla *Fothergilla gardenii*

**Golden Currant *Ribes aureum***

Hydrangea 'Annabelle'

Mahonia species

**Mockorange *Philadelphus lewisii***

**Mountain Mahogany *Cercocarpus ledifolius***

## Shade Tolerance

Partial to Full

Partial

Partial to Full

Partial

Partial to Full

Partial to Full

Partial to Full

Partial

Partial

## Notes

Moist soil

## Native

## Shrubs

	Shade Tolerance	Notes
Nannyberry <i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Partial to Full	
Ninebark <i>Physocarpus selections</i>	Partial	
<b>Ocean Spray <i>Holodiscus discolor</i></b>	Partial	Moist soil
<b>Red Osier Dogwood <i>Cornus sericea</i></b>	Partial	Moist soil
Russian Cypress <i>Microbiota decussata</i>	Partial	Evergreen
<b>Saskatoon <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i></b>	Partial	
<b>Shrubby Cinquefoil <i>Potentilla fruticosa</i></b>	Partial	
<b>Shrubby Penstemon <i>Penstemon fruticosus</i></b>	Partial	
<b>Snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos species</i></b>	Partial to Full	
Summersweet <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Partial	Moist soil
<b>Three-Leaf Sumac <i>Rhus trilobata</i></b>	Partial	
<b>Twinberry Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera involucrata</i></b>	Partial	
<b>Wax Currant <i>Ribes cereum</i></b>	Partial	
<b>Wood's Rose <i>Rosa woodsii</i></b>	Partial	
Yew 'Densifomis' <i>Taxus x media</i>	Partial to Full	Moist soil/evergreen

## Clay Soil Tolerant

	Shade Tolerance	Notes
<b>American Vetch <i>Vicia americana</i></b>	Partial	Spreads
Astilbe	Partial to Full	Moist soil
<b>Blue Elderberry <i>Sambucus cerulea</i></b>	Partial to Full	
Bush Honeysuckle <i>Diervilla</i>	Partial	
Columbine <i>Aquilegia</i>	Partial to Full	Tolerance variety dependent
Dogwood <i>Cornus</i>	Partial	Moist soil
Geranium 'Bevan's Variety'	Partial to Full	Groundcover
Hosta	Partial to Full	Moist soil

## Native

## Clay Soil Tolerant

Purple Monkeyflower <i>Mimulus lewisii</i>
Rocky Mountain Iris <i>Iris missouriensis</i>
Sweetgrass <i>Hierochloe odorata</i>
Three-Leaf Sumac <i>Rhus trilobata</i>
Tufted Hairgrass <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>
Wild Mint <i>Mentha arvensis</i>

## Shade Tolerance

Partial
Partial
Partial
Partial
Partial
Partial

## Notes

Moist soil
Moist soil
Spreads

## Dry Shade

Alpine Currant <i>Ribes alpinum</i>
Arrowleaf Balsamroot <i>Balsamorhiza sagittata</i>
Bergenia
Brunnera macrophylla
Bugleweed <i>Ajuga reptans</i>
Columbine Rocky Mountain <i>Aquilegia coerulea</i>
Creeping Juniper <i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>
Creeping Oregon Grape <i>Mahonia repens</i>
Dead Nettle <i>Lamium</i>
Dianthus 'First Love'
Geranium 'Bevan's Variety'
Geranium Bloody
Goatsbeard <i>Aruncus</i>
Golden Currant <i>Ribes aureum</i>
Goldenrod <i>Solidago missouriensis</i>
Harebell <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>
Iris Bearded <i>Iris germanica/pumila</i>

## Shade Tolerance

Partial to Full
Partial
Partial to Full
Partial to Full
Partial to Full
Partial to Full
Partial
Partial to Full
Partial to Full
Partial
Partial to Full
Partial
Partial
Partial to Full
Partial
Partial
Partial

## Notes

Plant seeds
Groundcover
Groundcover
Evergreen
Groundcover
Groundcover
Groundcover

## Dry Shade

	Shade Tolerance	Notes
<b>Kinnikinnick</b> <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Partial	Well drained soil
Korean Feather Reed Grass <i>Calamagrostis brachytricha</i>	Partial	
Lady's Mantle <i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	Partial to Full	Groundcover
Lamb's Ear <i>Stachys byzantina</i>	Partial	Groundcover
<b>Mockorange</b> <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	Partial	
<b>Mountain Bee Balm</b> <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Partial	
<b>Mountain Mahogany</b> <i>Cercocarpus ledifolius</i>	Partial	
<b>Roundleaf Alumroot</b> <i>Heuchera cylindrica</i>	Partial	
<b>Showy Fleabane</b> <i>Erigeron speciosus</i>	Partial	
<b>Shrubby Cinquefoil</b> <i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Partial	
<b>Shrubby Penstemon</b> <i>Penstemon fruticosus</i>	Partial	
Smooth Aster <i>Symphyotrichum laeve</i>	Partial	
<b>Snowberry</b> <i>Symphoricarpos species</i>	Partial to Full	
<b>Sulphur Buckwheat</b> <i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	Partial	Groundcover
Sweet Woodruff <i>Galium odoratum</i>	Partial to Full	Groundcover
<b>Three-Leaf Sumac</b> <i>Rhus trilobata</i>	Partial	
Turkish Veronica <i>Veronica liwanensis</i>	Partial	Groundcover
<b>Wax Currant</b> <i>Ribes cereum</i>	Partial	
<b>Western Virgins Bower</b> <i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i>	Partial	Groundcover/vine
<b>White Sagebrush</b> <i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>	Partial to Full	Spreads
<b>Wild Blue Flax</b> <i>Linum lewisii</i>	Partial	Reseeds
<b>Wild Strawberry</b> <i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	Partial	Groundcover

Native