

PERENNIALS	MOIST	DRY
Japanese Anemone		X
Columbine (aquilegia spp.)	X	
False Spiraea (astilbe)	X	
Bleeding Heart (dicentra)		X
Lenten Rose (helleborus)		X
Coral Bells (heuchera)		X
Lungwort (pulmonaria)	X	X
Lady's Mantle (alchemilla)	X	X
Spiderwort (tradescantia)	X	X
Hostas	X	X
Bell Flower (campanula)	X	
Cardinal Flower (lobelia)	X	X
Virginia Bluebells (mertensia)	X	
Primrose (primula)		X
Daylily (hemerocallis)		X
Goat's Beard (aruncus)	X	X

SHRUBS	MOIST	DRY
Azaleas	X	X
Mahonia	X	X
Rhododendrons	X	
Nandina	X	X
Mountain Laurel	X	
Hydrangea	X	
Helleri Holly	X	X
Boxwood	X	X
Acuba	X	X

Prepared by the Guilford County Master Gardener Volunteers  
 Sources: Shade Tolerant Selections, NC Cooperative Extension Service; The American Horticultural Society Encyclopedia of Gardening, Editor: Brickell 04/09/99

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# SHADE GARDENING

The Extension  
 Demonstration Garden  
 Information Booklet



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# Shade Gardening

If you have shaded areas in your landscaping, count your blessings. These areas can provide some of the most beautiful gardens to behold. Also, during the hot, humid summertime in the Piedmont of North Carolina, the cool freshness of working in the shade is very enjoyable.

Once thought to be a challenge for gardeners, the shade garden can be the answer to many landscaping problems. For example, it is a fact that grass will not grow under dense trees and heavily shade areas, therefore landscaping with shade-loving ground covers can be a solution.

## SITE SELECTION

Areas that receive less than 4-6 hours of sunlight can be considered for a shade garden. Filtered daylight is desirable and woodland areas can also be used. It may be advantageous to use raised beds by adding topsoil if roots are near the surface of the garden spot you desire.

## PLANT SELECTION

Deciduous woodland shade provides conditions of shelter, light shade, and humus rich soil suitable for many perennials. In cool, dry areas grow ground covers such as Lilly of the Valley, Solomon's Seal, or Plumaria.

It is best to group plants of one kind in drifts and intermingling at the edges or in substantial clumps. Ferns in particular thrive in a woodland setting and add architectural interest when planted in bold swathes.

It is best to determine if the shade garden's soil is dry or moist most of the year, and then choose plants that are better-suited for those areas.



Below is a partial list of the many suggested shade garden plants that will perform very well.

ANNUALS/ BIENNIALS	MOIST	DRY
Snap Dragon (antirrhum)	X	
Coleus		X
Impatiens	X	
Matthiola	X	
Oenothera	X	
Primula	X	
Viola	X	
Digitalis		X
Begonia		X
Cranesbill Geranium (pelargonium)		X
Caladium		X
Calendula (pot marigold)	X	X
Sweet Alyssum	X	X

ROCK PLANTS/ GROUND COVERS	MOIST	DRY
Adonis	X	
Cyclamen	X	
Daphne	X	
Galax	X	
Hepatica	X	
Iris	X	
Primula	X	
Trillium	X	
Bugleweed (ajuga repens)		X
Dianthus		X
English Ivy		X
Mondo Grass (ophhiopogon)		X
Helleborus		X
Spotted Dead Nettle (lamium)		X
Woodland Phlox (phlox divaricate)		X
Strawberry Geranium (saxifrage)		X
Sweet Woodruff (gallium)	X	
Pachysandra		X
Periwinkle	X	X