

# PLANTS FOR SHADY SITES

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The following are some of the plants appropriate for use in shade gardens, woodlands, and partly shaded areas. Ranges given for light are co-dependent on many other conditions, such as wind, soil conditions, moisture, temperature, and available nutrients. Most plants have specific requirements for good growth in addition to available light. Considerations include:

- Whether any available sun is in the morning or afternoon (east or west exposure).
- Soil: texture, structure, compaction, drainage, acidity and fertility.
- Moisture availability: dry; moist, but well drained; wet or boggy.
- High temperature tolerance in summer as well as cold tolerance (winter hardiness).
- Texture, shape, and size of the plant.
- Seasonal interest, such as flowers, foliage colors, fruit, attractive bark.
- Pest resistance.

Libraries, bookstores, and the internet have references that include cultural and maintenance requirements and descriptions of the listed plants. Plants in these lists are hardy in all or part of New Jersey.

<b>KEY:</b>	<u>Shade levels:</u>	<u>Leaf retention:</u>
	1 Filtered or intermittent shade	D = deciduous
	2 Open shade	E = evergreen
	3 Medium shade	SE = semi-evergreen
	4 deep or dense shade	

<u>BOTANICAL NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SHADE LEVEL</u>	<u>D/E</u>
<b><u>UNDERSTORY TREES</u></b>			
<i>Acer griseum</i>	paperbark maple	1	D
<i>Acer palmatum</i> cv.	Japanese maple	1-2	D
<i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i>	Apple serviceberry	1-3	D
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Allegheny serviceberry	1-3	D
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	eastern redbud	1-2	D
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	fringe tree	1-2	D
<i>Cornus florida</i> and cv.	flowering dogwood	1-2	D
<i>Cornus kousa</i>	Chinese dogwood	1	D
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Cornelian cherry	1-2	D
<i>Halesia carolina</i>	Carolina silverbell	1	D
<i>Hamamelis x intermedia</i>	witchhazel	1-2	D
<i>Laburnum x watereri</i>	golden chain tree	1	D
<i>Ligustrum</i> spp.	privet	1-3	D, E
<i>Magnolia soulangiana</i>	saucer magnolia	1-2	D
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	sweet bay	1-3	D
<i>Malus</i> spp.	crabapple	1	D
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	sorrel tree	1-2	D
<i>Stewartia ovata</i>	mountain stewartia	1	D
<i>Stewartia pseudocamellia</i>	Japanese stewartia	1	D
<i>Styrax japonica</i>	Japanese snowbell	1	D
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Canadian hemlock	1-3	E
<b><u>SHRUBS</u></b>			
<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i>	glossy abelia	1-3	D, E
<i>Abeliophyllum distichum</i>	Korean abelialeaf	1	D
<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	bottlebrush buckeye	1-3	D
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	chokeberry	2-3	D
<i>Berberis julianae</i>	barberry	1-2	E
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese barberry	1-2	D

<i>Buddleia alternifolia</i>	butterfly bush	1-3	D
<i>Buxus</i> spp.	boxwood	1-3	E
<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	sweet shrub, Carolina allspice	1-3	D
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	French mulberry	1-2	D
<i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i>	flowering quince	1-2	D
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	summersweet, pepperbush	1-3	D
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	gray dogwood	1-3	D
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	red osier dogwood	1	D
<i>Corylopsis spicata</i>	spike winter hazel	1-3	D
<i>Cotoneaster divaricata</i>	spreading cotoneaster	1-2	D
<i>Daphne mezereum</i>	February daphne	1-2	D
<i>Dirca palustris</i>	leatherwood	1-2	D
<i>Enkianthus campanulatus</i>	redvein enkianthus	1-3	D
<i>Euonymus alata</i>	burning bush	1-2	D
<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>	dwarf fothergilla	1-2	D
<i>Fothergilla major</i>	large fothergilla	1-2	D
<i>Hamamelis</i> spp.	witchhazel	1-3	D
<i>Heptacodium miconioides</i>	seven sons flower	1	D
<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	rose of Sharon	1	D
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	big-leafed hydrangea	1-3	D
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	oakleaf hydrangea	1-2	D
<i>Ilex</i> spp.	holly	1-3	E, D
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia sweet spire	1-3	D
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	mountain laurel	2-4	E
<i>Kerria japonica</i>	globeflower kerria	1-4	D
<i>Leucothoe axillaris</i>	coast leucothoe	2-4	E
<i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>	drooping leucothoe	1-4	E
<i>Ligustrum</i> spp.	privet	1-3	D, E
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	spicebush	1-3	D
<i>Magnolia stellata</i>	star magnolia	1-2	D
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Oregon grape holly	1-3	E
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	heavenly bamboo	1-3	E
<i>Pieris floribunda</i>	mountain andromeda	1-3	E
<i>Pieris japonica</i>	Japanese andromeda	1-3	E
<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>	fragrant mock orange	1-2	D
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	shrubby cinquefoil	1-2	D
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	cherry laurel	2-3	E
<i>Rhododendron</i> spp. & hyb.	azalea, rhododendron	1-3	E, D
<i>Sarcococca hookeriana</i>	Himalayan sarcococca	1-4	E
<i>Skimmia japonica</i>	Japanese skimmia	1-2	E
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	snowberry	1-2	D
<i>Taxus</i> spp.	yew	1-4	E
<i>Vaccinium</i> spp.	blueberry	1-3	D
<i>Viburnum</i> spp.	viburnum	1-4	D

#### **GROUND COVERS**

<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i> 'variegata'	silver-edged goutweed	1-4	D
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	carpet bugle	1-3	E
<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	lady's mantle	1-3	D
<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	bog rosemary	1-2	E
<i>Asarum</i> spp.	wild ginger	1-4	D, E
<i>Aubretia deltoides</i>	false rockcress	1	D
<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>	heart-leaf bergenia	1-4	D
<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	leadwort	1-2	D
<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>	golden star	1-2	D, E
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	lily-of-the-valley	1-4	D
<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	bunchberry	2-4	D
<i>Epimedium</i> spp.	bishop's hat, barrenwort	1-4	D
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	wintercreeper	1-3	E
<i>Galax aphylla</i>	wandflower	1-4	E
<i>Galium odorata</i>	sweet woodruff	1-4	E
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	wintergreen, teaberry	1-4	E

<i>Hedera helix</i>	English ivy	1-4	E
<i>Hosta</i> spp.	plantain lily, funkia	1-4	D
<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>	yellow archangel	1-3	D, E
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	spotted deadnettle	1-4	D, E
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	moneywort	1-3	SE
<i>Mitchella repens</i>	partridgeberry	1-4	E
<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>	dwarf lily turf, mondo grass	1-4	E
<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	Japanese spurge	1-4	E
<i>Paxistima canbyi</i>	Canby pachistima	1-3	E
<i>Phlox stolonifera</i>	creeping phlox	1-3	D
<i>Pulmonaria</i> spp.	lungwort	1-3	D
<i>Sedum spurium</i> 'Dragons Blood'	two-row stonecrop	1-2	D
<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	lamb's ears	1	SE
<i>Vinca minor</i> , <i>V. major</i>	periwinkle	1-3	E

#### **VINES**

<i>Akebia quinata</i>	five-leaf akebia	1	D
<i>Aristolochia durior</i>	Dutchman's pipe	1-2	D
<i>Hedera helix</i> and cv.	English ivy	1-3	E
<i>Clematis</i> hyb.	virgin's bower, clematis	1	D
<i>Euonymus fortunei coloratus</i>	purple wintercreeper	1-3	E
<i>Hydrangea anomala petiolaris</i>	climbing hydrangea	1-2	D
<i>Menispermum canadense</i>	moonseed	1	D
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia creeper	1-2	D
<i>Parthenocissus tricuspidata</i>	Boston ivy	1-2	D

#### **ANNUALS and BIENNIALS**

<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	ageratum	1-2	
<i>Begonia x semperflorens cultorum</i>	wax begonia	1-3	
<i>Browallia speciosa</i>	sapphire flower	1-2	
<i>Campanula medium</i> (biennial)	Canterbury bells	1-2	
<i>Cherianthus cheiri</i> (biennial)	wallflower	1	
<i>Clarkia</i> spp.	godetia	1-2	
<i>Cleome hasslerana</i>	spider flower	1-2	
<i>Coleus</i> hyb.	coleus	1-3	
<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>	cosmos	1	
<i>Dianthus barbatus</i> (biennial)	sweet William	1	
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> 'Foxy'	annual foxglove	1	
<i>Impatiens balsamina</i>	garden balsam	1-3	
<i>Impatiens</i> 'New Guinea'	New Guinea impatiens	1	
<i>Impatiens walleriana</i>	patient Lucy	1-3	
<i>Lobelia erinus</i>	edging lobelia	1-2	
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	sweet alyssum	1-2	
<i>Lunaria annua</i> (biennial)	honesty, silver dollar plant	1-2	
<i>Mimulus</i> spp.	monkey flower	1-2	
<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>	four-o'clock	1-2	
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	woodland forget-me-not	1-4	
<i>Nicotiana alata</i>	flowering tobacco	1-2	
<i>Nierembergia hippomanica</i>	cupflower	1-2	
<i>Pelargonium x hortorum</i>	common geranium	1	
<i>Salvia splendens</i>	scarlet sage	1-2	
<i>Torenia fournieri</i>	wishbone flower	1-2	
<i>Viola</i> hyb. (biennial)	pansies	1-2	

#### **BULBS**

\*=Store indoors over winter

<i>Begonia grandis</i>	hardy begonia	1-3	
<i>Begonia x tuberhybrida</i> *	tuberous begonia	1-3	
<i>Caladium</i> hyb.*	fancy-leafed caladium	1-4	
<i>Crocus</i> spp.	crocuses	1-2	
<i>Cyclamen</i> spp.	poor man's orchid	1-2	

<i>Eranthis hyemalis</i>	winter aconite	1-2
<i>Erythronium</i> spp.	fawn lily	1-3
<i>Fritillaria meleagris</i>	guinea hen flower	1-2
<i>Galanthus</i> spp.	snowdrop	1-2
<i>Leucojum</i> spp.	snowflake	1
<i>Lilium</i> spp.	lilies	1-2
<i>Lycoris squamigera</i>	magic lily	1
<i>Muscari tubergenianum</i>	grape hyacinth	1-2
<i>Narcissus</i> spp.	daffodils, narcissus	1
<i>Puschkinia scilloides</i>	striped squill	1-3
<i>Scilla sibirica</i>	Siberian squill	1-2
<i>Scilla campanulata</i>	Spanish bluebells	1-2

**PERENNIALS**

<i>Aconitum</i> spp.	monkshood	1-2	
<i>Adenophora confusa</i>	ladybells	1	
<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	blue star	1	
<i>Anemone x hybrida</i>	Japanese anemone	1-2	
<i>Anemone pulsatilla</i>	pasqueflower	1-3	
<i>Aquilegia</i> spp.	columbine	1-2	
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	goatsbeard	1-2	
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Asphodel	1	
<i>Astilbe</i> hyb.	false spirea, astilbe	1-3	
<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>	Siberian bugloss	1-2	
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	marsh marigold, cowslip	1-2	
<i>Campanula</i> spp.	bellflowers	1-2	
<i>Chelone lyonii</i>	pink turtlehead	1	
<i>Corydalis</i> spp.	corydalis	1-3	
<i>Dicentra eximia</i>	fringed bleeding heart	1-2	
<i>Dicentra spectabilis</i>	bleeding heart	1-3	
<i>Disporum maculatum</i>	fairy bells	1-3	
<i>Doronicum cordatum</i>	leopard's bane	1-2	
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	purple coneflower	1-2	
<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>	mistflower	1-2	
<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	Joe-Pye weed	1-2	
<i>Filipendula palmata</i>	meadowsweet	1-2	
<i>Filipendula rubra</i>	queen-of-the-prairie	1-2	
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	spotted geranium, cranesbill	1-2	
<i>Helleborus</i> spp.	Hellebore, Lenten/Christmas rose	1-3	E
<i>Hemerocallis</i> spp.	daylily	1-3	
<i>Heuchera sanguinea</i>	coral bells	1	E
<i>Hosta</i> spp.	plantain lily	1-4	
<i>Iris kaempferi</i>	Japanese iris	1-2	
<i>Kirengeshoma palmata</i>	kirengeshoma	1-3	
<i>Ligularia dentata</i>	golden groundsel	1-2	
<i>Liriope</i> spp.	lilyturf	1-3	E
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	cardinal flower	1-2	
<i>Lobelia syphilitica</i>	blue lobelia	1-2	
<i>Monarda didyma</i>	bee balm	1	
<i>Omphalodes verna</i>	blue-eyed Mary	2-4	
<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	garden phlox	1	
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	false dragonhead	1-2	
<i>Primula</i> spp.	primroses	1-3	SE
<i>Pulmonaria saccharata</i>	lungwort	1-4	
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	foamflower	1-3	
<i>Tricyrtis hirta</i>	hairy toad lily	2	
<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	Virginia spiderwort	1-4	
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	common globeflower	1-3	

**WILDFLOWERS\***

<i>Anemone quinquefolia</i>	wood anemone	1	
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	wild columbine	1-2	

<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-pulpit	2-4
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	wild ginger	1-4
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	marsh marigold	1-2
<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i>	black snakeroot	1-3
<i>Cimicifuga simplex</i>	Kamchatka bugbane	1-3
<i>Claytonia virginica</i>	spring beauty	1-2
<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>	pink lady's slipper	2-4
<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	Dutchman's breeches	1-3
<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i>	shooting-star	1-2
<i>Erythronium americanum</i>	dogtooth violet, trout lily	1-2
<i>Houstonia caerulea</i>	bluet	1
<i>Jeffersonia diphyllum</i>	twinleaf	1-3
<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia bluebells	1-3
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	wild blue phlox	1-3
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	mayapple	1-4
<i>Polygonatum</i> spp.	Solomon's seal	1-4
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	bloodroot	1-2
<i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>	celandine poppy	1-2
<i>Trillium</i> spp.	trillium	1-3
<i>Uvularia</i> spp.	bellworts, merrybells	1-3
<i>Viola odorata</i>	sweet violet	1-2

\*Purchase only wildflower plants that are propagated at a nursery, not collected from the wild.

#### **FERNS**

<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	maidenhair fern	1-2
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	maidenhair spleenwort	1-4
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	lady fern	1-4
<i>Athyrium goeringianum 'pictum'</i>	Japanese painted fern	1-3
<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>	hay-scented fern	1-4
<i>Dryopteris cristata</i>	crested wood fern	1-2
<i>Matteuccia pennsylvanica</i>	ostrich fern	1-3
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	sensitive fern	1-2
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	cinnamon fern	1-4
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas fern	1-3

#### **GRASSES**

<i>Acorus graminus 'variegatus'</i>	Japanese sweet flag	1-2	E
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius bulbosum</i>	bulbous oat grass	1-2	
<i>Carex morrowii 'aurea-varieg.'</i>	variegated Japanese sedge	1-3	
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	northern sea oats	1-2	
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	tufted hair grass	1-3	
<i>Festuca ovina glauca</i>	blue fescue	1-2	
<i>Helictotrichon sempervirens</i>	blue oat grass	1	E
<i>Imperata cylindrica rubra</i>	Japanese blood grass	1-2	
<i>Miscanthus</i> spp.	Eulalia grass, et al.	1-2	
<i>Phalaris arundinacea picta</i>	ribbon grass	1-3	
<i>Sinarundinaria nitida</i>	Chinese clump bamboo	1-3	