



HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS FOR SHADY SITES

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The following are some of the herbaceous (non-woody) 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 conditions: texture (sand, silt, clay), 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.

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

KEY:	Shade levels:	Moisture/water	Comments
	1 Filtered or intermittent shade	d = dry once established	p = poisonous
	2 Open shade	m = moist, but well drained	c = cool weather
	3 Medium shade	w = wet	dr = moderately deer resistant
	4 Deep or dense shade	(d) tolerates dry when dormant	

<u>BOTANICAL NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SHADE LEVEL</u>	<u>WATER</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
<u>BEDDING PERENNIALS</u>				
<i>Aconitum</i> spp.	monkshood	1-2	m	p, c, dr
<i>Acorus graminea</i>	sweet flag	1-3	m,w	
<i>Adenophora confusa</i>	ladybells	1-2	m	
<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	blue star	1-2	m	dr
<i>Anemone x hybrida</i>	Japanese anemone	1-2	m	alk. soil, dr
<i>Anemone pulsatilla</i>	pasqueflower	1-3	m	
<i>Aquilegia</i> spp.	columbine	1-2	m	dr
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	goatsbeard	1-2	m,w	
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	asphodel	m,d		
<i>Astilbe</i> hyb.	false spirea, astilbe	1-3	m	dr, heavy feeder
<i>Begonia evansiana</i>	hardy begonia	1-2	m	
<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>	Siberian bugloss	1-3	m	
<i>Campanula</i> spp.	bellflowers	1-2	m	
<i>Chelone lyonii</i>	pink turtlehead	1	m,w	c, dr
<i>Corydalis</i> spp.	corydalis	1-3	m	
<i>Dicentra eximia</i>	fringed bleeding heart	1-2	m	dr, long bloom
<i>Dicentra spectabilis</i>	common bleeding heart	1-3	m (d)	ephemeral, d
<i>Dictamnus albus</i>	gas plant	1-2	m	flowers emit gas
<i>Doronicum cordatum</i>	leopard's bane	1-2	m	
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	purple coneflower	1-2	m,d	
<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>	mistflower	1-2	m	dr
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	spotted Joe-Pye weed	1	w	
<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	Joe-Pye weed	1-2	w,m	dr
<i>Filipendula palmata</i>	meadowsweet	1-2	m,w	dr
<i>Filipendula rubra</i>	queen-of-the-prairie	1-2	m,w	dr
<i>Gentiana</i> spp.	gentian	1	m,w	c, sum/fall bloom
<i>Geranium</i> spp.	cranesbill, wild geranium	1-2	m	dr
<i>Helleborus</i> spp.	Hellebore, Lenten/Christmas rose	1-3	m	dr, winter bloom

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<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	stinking hellebore	1-2	m,d	dr, winter bloom
<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>	tawny daylily	1-3	m,d	
<i>Heuchera</i> spp.	coral bells, alumroot	1	m	dr
<i>Heucherella x tiarelloides</i>	foamy bells	1-3	m	
<i>Hosta</i> spp.	plantain lily	1-3	m	many diverse species
<i>Iris cristata</i>	crested iris	1	m	likes bonemeal
<i>Iris kaempferi</i>	Japanese iris	1-2	m,w	
<i>Kirengeshoma palmata</i>	yellow wax bells	1-2	m	dr
<i>Ligularia dentata et. al</i>	golden groundsel	1-2	m,w	
<i>Liriope</i> spp.	lilyturf	1-3	m	fall bloom, black fruit
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	cardinal flower	1-2	m,w	short-lived, dr summer bloom
<i>Lobelia syphilitica</i>	blue lobelia	1-2	m	summer bloom
<i>Lysimachia punctata</i>	yellow loosestrife	1-2	m,w	spreads
<i>Petasites japonicus</i>	Japanese butterbur	1-2	w,m	invasive
<i>Phlox paniculata Mt. Fujiyama</i>	garden phlox	1	m	
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	false dragonhead, obedient plant	1	m	spreads, dr
<i>Primula</i> spp.	primroses	1-3	m,w	c, dr
<i>Pulmonaria officinalis</i>	lungwort, Jerusalem cowslip	1-3	m	
<i>Pulmonaria saccharata</i>	Bethlehem sage	1-3	m	dr, mildew
<i>Rodgersia</i> spp.	rodgersia	1-3	m,w	majestic
<i>Symphytum grandiflorum</i>	comfrey	1-3	d,m	dr, rampant
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	tansy	1-2	d,m	dr
<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i>	common meadowrue	1	m	dr
<i>Thermopsis caroliniana</i>	false lupine	1=2	m	acid soil
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	foamflower	1-3	m	dr
<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	Virginia spiderwort	1-2	m,d	spreads, dr
<i>Tricyrtis hirta</i>	hairy toad lily	2	m	fall bloom
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	common globeflower	1-3	m,w	c
<i>Veronica latifolium</i>	speedwell	1-2	md	dr

GROUND COVERS

<i>Aegopodium podagraria 'variegata'</i>	silver-edged goutweed	1-4	m,w,d	invasive, dr
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	carpet bugle	1-3	m	spreads, dr
<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	lady's mantle	1-4	m,w	dr
<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	bog rosemary	1-2	w,m	
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	bearberry	1-2	d	poor soil
<i>Asarum</i> spp.	wild ginger	1-4	m,w	dr
<i>Aubretia deltoides</i>	false rockcress	1	m,d	dr
<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>	heart-leaf bergenia	1-3	m	dr
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	marsh marigold	1-2	w,m	stream banks
<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	leadwort	1-2	m	dr
<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>	golden star	1-2	m	
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	lily-of-the-valley	1-4	m	spreads, dr
<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	bunchberry	1-4	m	slow germination
<i>Epimedium</i> spp.	bishop's hat, barrenwort	1-4	m,d	dr
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	wintercreeper	1-3	m	scale
<i>Galax aphylla</i>	wandflower	1-4	m	acid
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	sweet woodruff	1-4	m	dr
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	wintergreen, teaberry	1-4	d, m	dr, acid soil
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English ivy	1-4	m	
<i>Houttuynia cordata</i>	chameleon plant	1-2	m,w	invasive, dr
<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>	yellow archangel	1-4	d,m	
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	spotted deadnettle	1-3	m,d	dr
<i>Lysimachia japonica 'Minutissima'</i>	miniature moneywort	1-3	m	summer bloom
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	moneywort	1-3	m,w	dr
<i>Mazus reptans</i>	mazus	1	m,w	invasive
<i>Omphalodes verna</i>	blue-eyed Mary, navelwort	2-4	m	c, pH 7, slugs

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<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>	dwarf lily turf, mondo grass	1-4	m	blue fruit
<i>Pachysandra procumbens</i>	Allegheny pachysandra	1-4	m	
<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	Japanese spurge	1-4	m	dr
<i>Panax quinquefolius</i>	American ginseng	2-4	m	c, herbal
<i>Paxistima canbyi</i>	Canby pachistima	1-3	m,d	
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	wild blue phlox	1-2	m	evergreen
<i>Phlox stolonifera</i> 'Blue Ridge' et al	creeping phlox	2-3	m	dr
<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	creeping polemonium	1-2	m	
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	silverweed	1-2	m	spreads quickly
<i>Pulmonaria</i> spp.	lungwort	1-3	m	dr
<i>Saxifrage x urbium</i>	London's pride saxifrage	2-3	m,d	needs lime
<i>Sedum spurium</i> 'Dragons Blood'	two-row stonecrop	1-2	m,d	
<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	lamb's ears	1	m,d	dr
<i>Vinca minor, V. major</i>	periwinkle	1-3	m	dr

VINES

<i>Akebia quinata</i>	five-leaf akebia	1	m	
<i>Aristolochia durior</i>	Dutchman's pipe	1-2	m,d	coarse
<i>Hedera helix</i> and cv.	English ivy	1-4	m	
<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	sweet autumn clematis	1-2	m	attracts bees
<i>Hydrangea anomala petiolaris</i>	climbing hydrangea	1-3	m	dr, Japanese beetles
<i>Menispermum canadense</i>	moonseed	1	m,d	p, invasive
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia creeper	1-2	m,d	dr, red fall color
<i>Parthenocissus tricuspidata</i>	Boston ivy	1-2	m,d	

BULBS

*=Store indoors over winter. Bulbs that are dormant in summer will tolerate summer droughts.

<i>Begonia grandis</i>	hardy begonia	1-3	m,d	dr
<i>Begonia x tuberhybrida</i> *	tuberous begonia	1-3	m	dr
<i>Caladium</i> hyb.*	fancy-leafed caladium	1-3	m	
<i>Crocus</i> spp.	crocuses	1-2	m,(d)	
<i>Cyclamen</i> spp.	poor man's orchid	1-2	m	
<i>Eranthis hyemalis</i>	winter aconite	1-2	m,(d)	dr
<i>Erythronium</i> spp.	fawn lily	1-3	m	
<i>Fritillaria meleagris</i>	guinea hen flower	1-2	m	dr
<i>Galanthus</i> spp.	snowdrop	1-2	m,(d)	dr
<i>Leucojum</i> spp.	snowflake	1	m,(d)	
<i>Lilium</i> spp.	lilies	1-2	m	
<i>Lycoris squamigera</i>	magic lily	1	m	
<i>Muscari tubergenianum</i>	grape hyacinth	1-2	m,(d)	
<i>Narcissus</i> spp.	daffodils, narcissus	1	m,(d)	dr
<i>Puschkinia scilloides</i>	striped squill	1-3	m,(d)	
<i>Scilla sibirica</i>	Siberian squill	1-2	m,(d)	dr
<i>Scilla campanulata</i>	Spanish bluebells	1-2	m,(d)	dr

WILDFLOWERS

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

<i>Anemone quinquefolia</i>	wood anemone	1	m	c,
<i>Anemonella thalictroides</i>	rue anemone	1-2	d,m	delicate
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	wild columbine	1-2	d,m	dr
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-pulpit	2-4	m,w	dr
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	wild ginger	1-4	m,w	
<i>Camassia scilloides</i>	wild hyacinth	1-2	w,m	bulb
<i>Chimaphila umbellata</i>	common pipsissewa	2-3	m	summer bloom
<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i>	black snakeroot, black cohosh	1-4	m,w	dr, summer bloom
<i>Cimicifuga simplex</i>	Kamchatka bugbane	1-3	m	dr, summer bloom

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SHADE LEVEL	WATER	COMMENTS
<i>Claytonia virginica</i>	spring beauty	1-2	m	ephemeral, seeds
<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>	pink lady's slipper	2-4	m	soil fungus symbiosis
<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>	yellow lady's slipper	1-2	w	soil fungus symbiosis
<i>Dentaria diphylla</i>	toothwort	2-4	m	ephemeral
<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	Dutchman's breeches	1-3	m	ephemeral
<i>Dicentra canadensis</i>	squirrel corn	1-2	m	needs spring sun
<i>Disporum maculatum</i>	fairy bells, nodding Mandarin	1-3	m	
<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i>	shooting-star	1-2	d,m	do not crowd
<i>Epigaea repens</i>	trailing arbutus	2-3	m	
<i>Erythronium americanum</i>	dogtooth violet, trout lily	1-2	m	needs spring sun
<i>Hepatica americana</i>	round-lobed hepatica, liverwort	1-3	m	acid clay soil OK
<i>Houstonia caerulea</i>	bluet	1-2	m	dr
<i>Gillenia trifoliata</i>	Indian physic, Bowman's root	1	m	spreads vigorously
<i>Jeffersonia diphyllum</i>	twinleaf	1-3	m	alkaline soil
<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia bluebells	1-3	m,w	ephemeral, dr
<i>Mitchella repens</i>	partridgeberry	1-4	m	dr, c, acid, tough
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	wild blue phlox	1-3	m	dr
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	mayapple	1-3	m	ephemeral, dr, p
<i>Polygala paucifolia</i>	fringed polygala	1-2	d	
<i>Polygonatum</i> spp.	Solomon's seal	1-4	m,d	adaptable
<i>Porteranthus trifoliatus</i>	Bowman's root	1	m	
<i>Pyrola elliptica</i>	shinleaf	1-4	m	summer bloom
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	bloodroot	1-2	m, (d)	ephemeral
<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>	Solomon's plume, false Sol. seal	1-4	m	c, acid soil
<i>Spiranthes cernua</i>	ladies' tresses	1-3	m	acid
<i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>	celandine poppy	1-2	m	self-seeds
<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>	skunk cabbage	1-3	w	stinks, self-sows
<i>Tricyrtis</i> spp.	toad lily	1-2	m	sum/fall bloom
<i>Trillium cernuum</i>	nodding trillium	1-4	m	spring sun
<i>Trillium erectum</i>	purple trillium	1-4	m	spring sun
<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>	snow trillium, showy wake robin	1-3	m,w	dr, spring sun, best
<i>Trillium undulatum</i>	painted trillium	1-4	m	spring sun, acid
<i>Trillium viride</i> var. <i>luteum</i>	yellow trillium	1-4	m,w	needs spring sun
<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	large-flowered bellwort, merrybells	1-3	m	
<i>Uvularia sessifolia</i>	wild oats	1-3'	m	
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's root	1	m	herbal
<i>Viola blanda</i>	sweet white violet	1	m	seeds readily
<i>Viola pedata</i>	bird's foot violet	1-2	m	not invasive
<i>Viola odorata</i>	sweet violet	1-2	m	seeds readily, dr
<i>Viola pubescens</i>	downy yellow violet	1-2	m	seeds readily

FERNS

<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	maidenhair fern	1-3	m	
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	maidenhair spleenwort	1-4	m	
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	lady fern	1-4	m	dr
<i>Athyrium goeringianum 'pictum'</i>	Japanese painted fern	1-3	m	
<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>	hay-scented fern	1-4	m	dr
<i>Dryopteris cristata</i>	crested wood fern	1-2		
<i>Matteuccia pensylvanica</i>	ostrich fern	1-4	m	dr
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	sensitive fern	1-2	m	dr
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	cinnamon fern	1-4	w,m,d	dr, edible fiddlehead
<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>	interrupted fern	1-4	w,m,d	
<i>Polypodium</i> spp.	resurrection fern, polypody	1-4	m,d	tolerant
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas fern	1-4	m	dr, adaptable