

Designing and Planning your Shade Garden – Jenny Rose Carey

Northwest Flower and Garden Festival – Pro Tips – February 21st 2025

Shade gardens, especially those graced with dappled shadows from an elegant shade tree, shrubs or an arbor, are some of the coolest and most peaceful areas of our garden. They are a delight in the heat of the summer and a joy of changing beauty throughout the year.

When learning how to improve your shade garden visit as many gardens as you can. I have been lucky enough to visit gardens in many parts of the world. No two gardens have ever been the same. As you walk around a garden see if there is one idea that you could take away from that garden to improve your own garden. It might be just one plant combinations that you like, how a seat is placed under a tree, or the type of path material that they use. Over time your shade garden will get better and better, as plants multiply, and you make adjustments to suit your style.

Jenny Rose's top twelve tips for a glorious shade garden:

1. Assess how many hours of sun and shade and the time of day
2. Think about your preferred shade garden style
3. Design the garden for you: include paths, a gathering spot, and seats
4. Add a water feature, rain garden, or bird bath
5. Include a focal point to lead you on through the space
6. Make a plant 'Wish List' and choose plants that you love for each season
7. Select plants that suit the amount of shade and water in the soil
8. Favor native plants: trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants
9. Plant for the future: choose climate adapted trees
10. Group plants together to make pleasing drifts and vignettes
11. Consider wildlife: include habitat, nesting sites, and food
12. Design in a way that both pleases you and is environmentally friendly

If you are interested in seeing images of my garden at Northview, Ambler, PA, and other garden travel images, follow my Instagram accounts – **@NorthviewGarden** and **@JennyRoseCarey**

- Visit my website & sign up for my once-a-month email newsletter - **jennyrosecarey.com**
- This lecture is based on the book '**Glorious Shade**', published by Timber Press 2017
- Also by Jenny Rose Carey: *The Ultimate Flower Gardener's Guide*, Timber Press 2022
- New bulb book coming out in September 2025 – Timber Press

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