

Plant It Where the Sun Don't Shine

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Types of Shade

Types of shade (from Great Plants Picks "Shade Guidelines and Definitions")

Light shade: four to six hours of direct sunlight every day; forest edges

Dappled shade: Two to three hours of sunlight filtered through the branches above; deciduous woods

Deep shade: Little to no direct sunlight; coniferous woods

Open shade: Exposed to the sky but with little to no direct sunlight. North side of house.

Shade Gardening Basics

Plants generally flower less in shade, have larger foliage, and need less water

Plants usually spread slower in dry shade

Changing the Conditions

Pruning

To prune or not to prune? Pruning exposes the soil to light and evaporation, allows weed seeds to germinate; safety first; International Society of Arboriculture, Plant Amnesty

Watering (also from Great Plant Picks)

Regular watering; Plants require supplemental water once per week during the dry season.

Occasional watering; Plants require supplemental water every 10 to 14 days during the dry season.

Drought tolerant watering; Plants only require supplemental water about once a month during the dry season after being established (typically two years of regular supplemental watering during the dry season).

Drought tolerant doesn't mean *never* watering; new plants will need to be watered until roots are established

Avoid permanent irrigation systems; use soaker hoses, sprinklers, hand water

Planting tips

Critical Root Zone = 1 foot radius per 1" of trunk diameter measured at 54" trunk height; minimize planting in inner CRZ; avoid damaging roots, use small tools to dig small holes; plant small plants in the fall; don't add topsoil under trees; don't bury root flare/buttress with mulch

PLANT LIST; there are a multitude of plants which will tolerate various degrees of shade and drought. The list includes a mere handful of my favorites. Check out the books, web sites, and nurseries listed below for *many* more suggestions. Plants with an asterisk are Cascadia natives.

Trees

Acer circinatum *Vine Maple**

Acer palmatum *Japanese Maple*

Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Gracillis' *Slender Hinoki Cypress* (Many other cultivars available)

Corylus cornuta *Western Hazelnut*

Cornus nuttalli *Western Dogwood**

Rhamnus purshiana *Cascara**

Taxus brevifolia *Western Yew** (And most other species of *Taxus* and *Cephalotaxus*)

Deciduous shrubs

Fuchsia magellanica and hybrids *Hardy Fuchsia*

Kerria japonica *Japanese Kerria*

Lonicera involucrata *Twinberry**

Oemleria cerasiformis *Indian Plum, Oso Berry**

Symphoricarpos albus *Snowberry**

Vaccinium parvifolium *Red Huckleberry**

Evergreen Shrubs

Aucuba japonica *Japanese Laurel*

Fatsia japonica *Fatsia, Japanese Aralia*

Gaultheria shallon *Salal**

Lonicera pileata *Box Leaf Honeysuckle*

Mahonia aquifolium *Oregon Grape**
Mahonia repens *Creeping Oregon Grape*
Mahonia nervosa *Cascade Oregon Grape**
Mahonia x media *Hybrid Mahonia*: 'Charity' is the most available cultivar, 'Marvel' is less prickly
Morella (Myrica) californica *Pacific Wax Myrtle**
Sarcococca hookerianna var. humilis & Sarcococca confusa *Sweetbox*
Vaccinium ovatum *Evergreen Huckleberry**

Vines

Heronswood Garden
Hydrangea anomala subsp. Petiolaris, *Climbing Hydrangea*
Lonicera ciliosa *Orange Honeysuckle**

Ferns

Athyrium filix-femina *Lady Fern**
Dryopteris erythrosora *Autumn Fern**
Adiantum venustum *Himalayan Maidenhair Fern*
Polystichum munitum *Western Sword Fern**

Perennials and Groundcovers

Beesia deltophylla, *Beesia*
Dicentra formosa *Western Bleeding Heart*, many selections available including subsp. *Oregana* 'Langtrees'*
Epimedium sp. *Barrenwort, Bishop's Cap*
 E. perralchicum
 E. peraldianum 'Frohnleiten'
 E. x versicolor 'Sulphureum'
 E. pinnatum subsp. Colchicum
 E. x warleyensis
 E. rubra
Eurybia (Aster) divaricatus *White Wood Aster*
Geranium macrorrhizum *Big Root Cranesbill*
Geranium x cantabrigiense 'Biokovo' *Biokovo Cranesbill*
Helleborus argutifolius *Corsican Hellebore*
Hosta sp. *Hosta, Plantain Lily* (try H. seiboldiana 'Elegans', H. 'Francee', H. 'Elvis Lives')
Iris sp. *Pacific Cost Iris**
Tellima grandiflora *Fringecups**
Trillium ovatum *Western Trillium**
Vancouveria hexandra *Inside-out Flower, Ducksfoot**

* *Cascadia native*

Books

Graham Rice, *Planting the Dry Shade Garden*
Beth Chatto, *Beth Chatto's Shade Garden*
George Schenk, *The Complete Shade Gardener*
Kenneth Druse, *The New Shade Garden*
Keith Wiley, *Designing and Planting the Woodland Garden*
Cass Turnbull, *Cass Turnbull's Guide to Pruning*

Web Sites & Nurseries

Far Reaches Farm
Great Plant Picks, "Made in the Shade"
Plant Delights Nursery, "Plants for Dry Shade"
Missouri Botanical Garden, "Problem Solver Plants for Dry Shade"
Xera Plants (use search function with keyword "shade")
Leonine Iris
Hardy Fern Foundation
Fancy Fronds