

IN YOUR GARDEN FLOWERS FOR SHADY AREAS

Most annual flowers produce less color when grown in shade. Some species tolerate shade, but become tall and flower poorly.

According to James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Extension Horticulturist in Cook County, fibrous-rooted or wax begonia, which does well in full sun, is also one of the best annual flowers for shady areas.

The new F-1 hybrids have exceptional vigor and bloom continually throughout the growing season. You can expect color right up until a killing frost in the fall, says Fizzell. The plants are extremely tolerant of wind and rain. Unlike the petunia, which shows the effects of a rain storm for a few days, the new fibrous-rooted begonias will bounce back in a matter of hours.

There is a good selection of varieties. Available are those that produce green or bronze foliage. Flower colors range from white through yellow-green to pink and deep red. Leaf and flower size also vary, some varieties producing large blooms and foliage and others with small flowers and leaves.

Coleus is another good species for shaded as well as bright areas. This plant is known primarily for its foliage. Many new introductions in recent years have established it as one of the better plants for shaded areas, according to Fizzell. The foliage is quite striking and can be used to add contrast to flower borders.

Impatiens, a shade loving garden flower also does well in hanging baskets, and new selections have dwarf growth habits. The elfin series has exceptional vigor, and plants reach a height of about 12 inches. Growth is uniform, and the plants are covered with flowers throughout the growing season.

Vinca rosea produces some very colorful plants that have exceptional foliage even in shade. The leaves are a rich green and somewhat waxy. While the plant may not produce as many flowers as other annuals, its combination of very colorful blooms and rich, green foliage makes this a suitable addition to the flower border, Fizzell says.

A number of other annuals will tolerate some shade. Lobelia, with its bright-blue flowers, makes a good border. Snapdragon, calendula, ageratum, and pansy may also be grown in a partial shade condition.

In a shaded area, pansies will often bloom all summer and if protected will winter over year after year.

Shady garden areas take less watering, less fertilizer, and weeds are usually less of a problem than in full sun. Don't ignore the shady parts of your garden. They can be a gardening asset.

James A. Fizzell

Dear Ray;

"THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN"

How great to go to work in ones shirt sleeves,

Tan in the warmth of the Summer Sun.

Cool beneath a parasol of tree leaves,

Join in with the Golfers, have fun.

How wonderful to work on a Golf Course,

To commune with Nature first hand.

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