

Made FOR THE shade

There are woody plants that do well in partial shade and those that prefer full shade. Most varieties do best in partial shade conditions.

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Good landscape design takes its clues from nature. A forest is a good model of plants growing in a shade environment. A forest consists of the overstory and the understory of living plants. Dominant trees compose the overstory providing various degrees of shade. The understory consists of smaller tree species, shrubs, vines and groundcovers (annuals and perennials).

Understory plants are well suited to conditions beneath the much larger dominant trees. Environmental factors such as the degree of shade, soil moisture and soil pH determine which plants thrive in a particular understory. These same factors help determine which plants will grow well in a manmade landscape.

In horticulture we often use the terms partial and full shade. Full shade defines an area that receives no direct sunlight. Partial shade refers to an area that receives filtered sunlight or some full sunlight part of the day, and less or none at other times. There are plants that do well in both, but more that do well with partial shade.

That's why it's so important to do a careful site analysis before determining which plants to put in a particular area. The site may be sunny when you visit the site, but receive shade most of the rest of the day. Or it may receive just morning or afternoon shade. In a site analysis, take into account other factors like topography and pertinent architectural features of the adjacent building(s). Be aware of microclimates in the planting area you select. They're a product of geographical orientation and anything affecting exposure to prevailing weather and exposure to the sun.

Equally important to the process of determining plants for a particular landscape is your "customer needs" analysis. Consider the needs, desires and tastes of your clients, whether they're landscape clients or members of your golf course. This includes the use of the area, specific preferences, and the amount of maintenance the plants will require after planting.

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Trees that generally do well in shade. Check with local nurseries or extension service for new, popular cultivars.

Scientific name	Zones	Common name
<i>Acer circinatum</i>	1-6	vine maple
<i>Acer palmatum</i>	5-8	Japanese maple
<i>Acer pennsylvanicum</i>	3-8	striped maple
<i>Alnus sp.</i>	2-7	alders
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	4-9	eastern redbud
<i>Cornus sp.</i>	1-9	dogwoods
<i>Corylus sp.</i>	4-9	hazels
<i>Illex sp.</i>	3-8	hollies
<i>Podocarpus macrophylla</i>	4-9	yew pine
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	5-9	arborvitae
<i>Tsuga sp.</i>	3-8	hemlocks

Shrubs that generally do well in shade. Check with local nurseries or extension service for new, popular cultivars.

Scientific name	Zones	Common name
<i>Berberis sp.</i>	5-8	barberry
<i>Euonymus japonicus</i>	7-9	evergreen euonymous
<i>Fatsia japonica</i>	8-10	fatsia
<i>Illex sp.</i>	3-8	hollies
<i>Ligustrum sp.</i>	3-7	privets
<i>Lonicera sp.</i>	5-7	honeysuckles
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	6-9	heavenly bamboo