

Perennials that love the cool, cool shade

Shade gardening evokes a calm, inviting feeling. It beckons one to the garden with wisps of coolness and fresh, earthy smells.

Shade not only varies by season, but it also can vary by time of day. Morning sun, for example, is cooler and preferred by moisture-loving plants. Afternoon sun is hotter and a few shade plants tolerate this condition.

Light to partial shade: In this condition, shade is present for less than four hours a day. This could be an area where sunlight filters through deciduous trees with high branches, and east- or west-facing slope, or the shady side of a building.

Full shade: Full shade are those areas where shade is constant throughout the day.



Myosotis Alpestris (Forget-me-not), a partial shade groundcover.

SHADE-LOVING PERENNIALS (A PARTIAL LIST)

Partial shade

Acanthus	Boltonia	Digitalis
Aquilegia	Campanula (some species)	Erigeron
Aster divaricatus	Cerastium	Iris (some species)
Astrantia	Chelone	Lobelia
Baptisia	Chrysogonum	Myosotis
Bergenia	Clematis (some species)	

Partial/full shade

Actaea	Dicentra	Viola
Asarum	Ferns	Polygonatum
Brunnera	Hosta	
Corydalis	Sanguinaria	

Partial/full shade/ groundcover

Lamium	Epimedium
Aegopodium	Galium
Ajuga	Lamiastrum
Geranium (some species)	Lamium

Woodland shade: Under mature tree canopy with filtered light, well-drained, moist, humus soil.

Wet or boggy shade: In the low point of the garden, perhaps adjacent to a pond or stream. Soil in this garden is always moist to wet, with moderate to heavy shade.

Dry, well-drained shade: On a slope or in very sandy soil with summer drying. The shade is light to moderate.

To install a shade garden

Consider the foliage effect when designing. Many perennials offer a sumptuous appeal with different leaf patterns, colors and textures. A deeply-shaded area can be brightened with the use of a variegated foliage plants such as *Hosta* and *Lamium*.

Thorough soil preparation prior to planting is essential to long term success. This is the only opportunity to work the soil completely. Once plants are established, drainage and aeration cannot be substantially corrected without removing the plants. Organic matter should be added to the soil to improve the texture and drainage. A four- to six-inch layer of organic matter, such as well-rotted manure, compost, peat moss, decomposed bark or leaf mold should be worked into the soil by digging, spading or rotary tilling.

Another key consideration is the moisture retention of your soil. Many perennials are adaptable to soils with varied moisture levels while other perennials are very specific to moisture level. **LM**