



Shade Tolerant Plants

Shady conditions are defined as 4 or less hours of direct sun. This usually means that the area only receives sun in the morning or the very late afternoon. The shadiest places along a house tend to be on the north or east side. Trees can also cause shady conditions outside the shadow of the house. Observe the area that you wish to plant in to determine whether it has full sun, part-sun, or full shade conditions. This will help you pick the best plants to thrive in that area.

Please note that shade tolerant plants that are planted beneath a shallow-rooted tree, such as a birch or maple, may struggle to thrive due to competition for water, not light conditions.



Full Sun Conditions:
6+ Hours of Sunlight



Part Sun Conditions:
4-6 Hours of Sunlight



Full Shade Conditions:
4 or less Hours of Sunlight

Annuals

- Begonias
- Bacopa
- Caladiums
- Coleus
- Creeping Jenny
- Fuchsia
- Impatiens
- Lobelia
- Oxalis
- Polka Dot Plant
- Sweet Potato Vine
- Torenia

Trees

- Alaskan Cedar
- Canadian Hemlock
- Coralbark Maple
- Cryptomeria
- Dogwoods
- Japanese Red Maple
- Japanese Laceleaf Maple
- Magnolia, Southern
- Paperbark Maple
- Parrotia
- Redbud
- Serviceberry
- Silverbell
- Stewartia
- Sweetbay Magnolia
- Witchhazel
- Golden Full Moon Maple

Perennials and Grasses

- Acorus (Sweet Flag)
- Astilbe (False Goat's Beard)
- Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra*)
- Brunnera
- Bugleweed (*Ajuga*)
- Carex*
- Cimicifuga* (Cohosh)
- Coral Bells (*Heuchera*)
- Dead Nettle (*Lamium*)
- Goat's Beard (*Aruncus*)
- Ground Elder (*Aegopodium*)
- Ground Orchid (*Bletilla*)
- Epimedium*
- Ferns
- Foamflower (*Tiarella*)
- Forget-Me-Nots (*Myosotis*)
- Hakone Grass (*Hakonechloa*)
- Hellebores
- Heucherella
- Hosta
- Ivy
- Lamium
- Lily Turf (*Ophiopogon*)
- Liriope
- Lungwort (*Pulmonaria*)
- Mazus
- Meadow-Rue (*Thalictrum*)
- Pachysandra
- Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum*)
- Sweet Woodruff (*Galium*)
- Toad Lily (*Tricyrtis*)
- Tufted Hairgrass (*Deschampsia*)
- Trillium
- Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia*)
- Wild Ginger (*Asarum*)
- Windflower (*Anemone*)
- Wolfsbane (*Aconitum*)

Shrubs

- Abelia
- Arborvitae
- Aucuba
- Azalea
- Boxwood
- Camellia
- Dogwood, Redtwig or Yellowtwig
- Elderberry (*Sambucus*)
- False Cypress (*Chamaecyparis*)
- Cherry Laurel
- Chokeberry
- Cotoneaster
- Diervilla*
- Enkianthus
- Fothergilla
- Winter Creeper (*Euonymus fortunei*)
- Holly (All varieties)
- Hydrangea, Lacecap
- Hydrangea, Macrophylla
- Hydrangea, Oakleaf
- Hydrangea, Climbing
- Itea*
- Leucothoe*
- Mahonia*
- Nandina (Heavenly Bamboo)
- Siberian Cypress (*Microbiota*)
- Mountain Laurel
- Osmanthus
- Japanese Andromeda (*Pieris japonica*)
- Rhododendron
- Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
- Sweet Box (*Saracocca*)
- Skimmia
- Skip Laurel
- St. Johnswort
- Viburnum
- Yews