

Shade Garden Ideas from GGC Forum, April 23, 2019

Base plant list is from Pam Braak's Shade Garden. Ideas added by GGC forum participants are in **Red**. Plants checked (✓) were on Pam's list as well on the forum-generated list.

Plants, by category

Comments

TREES

✓ Japanese maples	Emperor One is my favorite
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SHRUBS

✓ American Beauty Berry	Gorgeous purple berries in fall, feeds many species of birds
Azalea - Encore	Needs acid soils, blooms more than once a year, use coffee grounds to acidify soil
Baptista	False Indigo (Lisa Grove loves this plant)
Bush honeysuckle	Large upright plant grows to 15 - 20 feet, flowers change from white to yellow, juicy red berries, likes deep shade, can be invasive
Camelia	Likes acid soils
Carissa hollies	Lots of hollies do well in shade.
Coralberry	
✓ Fatsia Japonica	Looks tropical but is hardy
✓ Kerria	Yellow blooms in spring, large (5-6 feet)
Mahonia Leatherleaf	Great flowers and seeds
Mahonia Marvel	Great flowers and seeds
Mahonia Soft Caress	Stays short, nice feathery look
Nandinas, Harbor dwarf	Nandinas all do well in shade.
✓ Nandinas, Standard	Quite tall
Pittosporum	
Spring Bouquet viburnum	Flowers in spring
Virginia sweetspire	Flowers in spring, leaves turns red in fall - butterflies love it

FERNS

Asparagus ferns	Perennial
Autumn ferns	Evergreen
✓ Holly ferns	Evergreen
Japanese painted ferns	Great in darkest shade
Wood Ferns	

VINES

Autumn clematis	Mine got kind of messy so I took it out.
Climbing Japanese fern	I've read this is invasive in some parts of the country--not here
Coral honeysuckle	Red blossoms, blooms early while leaves on trees are tiny
Crossvine	Flowers in partial shade
Lorapetalum	I copied my neighbors idea of growing on a trellis - hers blooms, mine hasn't yet

PERENNIALS

4 o'clocks	Blooms in partial shade in the evening, fragrant, can be invasive
√ African hosta	Not really a hosta - found at Arlington Organic Garden Club sale
Arum Italicum	Green all winter, followed by stalks with orange berries in mid summer
√ Bears Britches	Gets pretty sad during the hot summer but comes back.
Black eyed Susans	Blooms in partial shade
Bouncing Bet	Also known as Soapwort, grows in roadside ditches in Minnesota, white to light pink flowers
Chinese orchids	Fun and unusual - purple blooms
√ Chocolate plant	Pseuderanthemum alata - live several years, reseed - don't appear until late May
√ Columbine, red	Native and reseeds. The flowers droop but still look great in a mass.
√ Columbine, yellow	Native and reseeds
Coral bells	I've had troubles finding a place they like. The red leafed ones are best for me in pots.
Dianthus	Red/white blossoms
Drummonds aster Native	White flowers in fall
√ Giant leopard plant	Farfugium Japonicum - sold by GGC. Large roundish green leaves
√ Lambs ear	They don't spread as much in shade
√ Lenten roses	Hellebores - blooms very early - expensive but great in very early spring, reseeds
√ Leopard plant	Mine lost its spots but still nice
√ Oxalis	Love the purple ones - not so crazy about the green leafed ones
Persicaria	Got it at the plant sale - red leafed until it gets too much shade
Schoolhouse lily	Lycoris Radiata - grows at base of red oak wonderful surprise
√ Solomon's Seal	Polygonatum Odaratum Variegatum. slow growing but wonderful, needs deep shade.

PERENNIALS (cont.)

✓ Toad lily - Tricyrtis Hirta	Bloom in fall when you've sort of forgotten them
Turks Cap	Red, pink, or white; dies back in winter but comes back
✓ Wood violets	They bloom really really early

BULBS

Amaryllis	I plant the ones from Christmas and they do bloom & return
Daffodils	The early blooming types
✓ Snowdrops, giant	Wonderful bulbs under post oaks
Spanish bluebells	Nice purple/blue blooms
Spring star flower	Ipheon uniflorum - can spread

GROUND COVERS

Ajuga, Burgundy glow	Somewhat greyish with purple tinges
✓ Ajuga, chocolate chip	Seems to like it a bit dry once established
Blue plumbago	Ceratostigma plumbaginoides - not the tropical kind - blue flowers in June
✓ Cast iron plant - TALL ground cover	They don't grow much the first year
Creeping jenny	There is a sort of chartreuse color
False lamium	Lamiastrum Galeobdolon - variegated - didn't like drought but doing good now
Frog fruit Native	Just new - don't know how it will do.
✓ Ground ivy	Not too refined but fills in shady spots
✓ Liriope	I especially like the white variegated to add brightness
Minature umbrella plant	From GGC plant sale - I love them but they may take over
✓ Pigeon berry	Native. Blossoms & berries on the same stem. Reseeds
✓ Purple heart	Great easy - purple leaves - the dwarf variety is more refined
Sedums	Some kinds do very well in shade
Silver dichondra	Tiny grey leaves - very tidy, cascades delicately
✓ Strawberry begonia	lovely white blooms like butterflies in spring, can spread
Variegated ivy	The white & green and yellow & green are terrific for lighting up a dark spot

GRASSES

✓ Inland Sea Oats Native	Can be invasive - remove seed heads in December
Mondo grass	Different heights - very short one can substitute for lawn grass
Ribbon grass strawberries & cream	Phalaris arundinacea
Sedge, variegated	Carex - low growing, evergreen - tidy

SUMMER ANNUALS

Bloodleaf	Resembles coleus
√ Caladiums	Outstanding in shade
√ Coleus	My favorite - You can make more by taking cuttings!
Dragon leaf begonias	Very dependable, blooms all summer
Dragon wing begonias	Beautiful foliage, white, pink, or red flowers in late spring or summer, vigorous grower that needs plenty of room in pot
Elephant Ears	Caladium family
Iresine	Grown for their red leaves - also called Bloodleaf - propagate like a coleus
Magilla Perilla	They look a lot like coleus - pinch back - can get to be 18" tall!
Melampodium	The yellow flowers do quite well in partial shade.
Persian shield	Gotta love that purple color
Red salvias	These annuals have always done well in my partial shade.
Shrimp plants	The ones with yellow flowers

HOUSE PLANTS USED AS OUTDOOR ANNUALS

Airplane plant	Very durable
Croton	Tropical looking
Polka Dot Plant Hypoestes	Those little pink speckled plants sometimes sold as houseplants
Prayer plant	For a pot
Syngonium - Arrowhead Ivy	Look like tiny caladiums, mine returned 2 years - pink
Ti plants	Lovely red splash of color