

SIZZLING SUMMER SHADE PLANTS

- Get the right plants for the right space..... How much sun do you actually get?
- Be honest with yourself..... Will you water it regularly or not much?
- Incorporate shrubs/conifers for structure, accent with perennials/grasses/annuals
- Brighten up your shady areas with some bold colors – lots of variegated plants
- Create seasonal interest with textures and contrasting colors
- Some “shade plants” do well with some sun as well

SHADE GARDENING – BROKEN INTO FOUR REGIONS

1. **Light Shade** – 4-6 hours of sunlight a day. Numerous plants like Witchhazel, Hydrangeas, Kalmia, Magnolias, Pieris, Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Epimediums, Hellebores.
2. **Open Shade** – Fully exposed areas to the sky but blocked by building – no canopy/tree overhanging. Lots of plants listed above plus shade loving Japanese Maples, Hostas of all kinds, almost anything with bright yellow foliage.
3. **Dappled Shade** – the “woodland garden” – gardening under established trees especially conifers. Only 2-3 hours of filtered sun through trees. Lots of above plants plus Dogwoods, more Japanese Maples, numerous Ferns, Bleeding Hearts and numerous “woodland” perennials.
4. **Deep Shade** – Areas under thick canopy that never receive much sun during day. Place to look for foliage and not much flowers. Lots of cool ferns, Sarcococcoa, Osmanthus, Fatsia, Beesia, Wild Gingers, Oregon Grape.

Plants to choose from for your shade garden. Some of my favorites.....

Lotsa Hosta – too many great flavors to list but look at the bold blue foliages and the different scales of the plants. Big in back, smaller dwarfs along borders.

Shrubs – Skimmia, Leucothoe, Daphne odora, Sarcococca humilis – great low evergreen with fragrant white blooms late winter/early spring.

Japanese Maples – lots to choose from but try anything variegated or a golden full moon maple.

Perennials – Cimicifuga (Actaea), Bleeding Hearts (especially golden), Spiderworts, Astilbes, Ligularia, Primroses, Cordyalis, Rodgersia, Hellebores of all kinds, Variegated Solomons Seal, Anenomes, Lady’s Mantle, Heucheras and Heucherellas, Hardy Fuchsias, Bergénias, Astringias, Saxifrages, Mukdenia, Mukgenia, Goat’s Beard, Meadow Rue, Disporum and Disporopsis..... And many more☺

Grasses – Northern Sea Oats, Hakonechloas, Carex, Mondo Grass.

Groundcovers – Ajuga, Bunchberry, Sweet Woodruff, Ogon Sedum, Vinca.

Conifers – Hemlocks, Cephalotaxus, Golden Korean Fir, numerous Yews.