



## DRY SHADE

In dry shade situations, there is usually a period of some moisture in the winter and early spring. Take advantage of this period by planting new starts. This moist time helps the plants settle in. Greatest success comes when the new plants receive some water through the hot summer, so they can establish a good root system. This root system helps the plants to survive drought in coming years. The following list of plants is suitable for dry shade.

***Acer circinatum***- Vine Maple. Our native maple which can grow 6-20' tall.

***Asarum caudatum***- Wild Ginger. A creeping ground cover with secret flowers.

***Bergenia spp.***- Evergreen, white or pink flowers.

***Crocus species***

***Dicentra formosa***- Native Bleeding Heart.

***Epimedium spp.***- A weaving ground cover, shallow rooted.

***Erythronium spp.*** - Dog-tooth violet, Fawn lily. Summer dormant.

***Euphorbia robiae***- Evergreen runner

***Galanthus spp.*** - Snowdrops. Summer dormant.

***Helleborus orientalis.*** - Water in the first season is crucial.

***Hosta spp.***- Water the first season.

***Iris douglasiana* or *I. tenax***- Pacific Coast iris. Tolerant of partial shade.

***Lamium spp.*** - A shallow rooted ground cover. Great under densely rooted trees.

***Linna borealis***- Twin flower. A vining native ground cover, evergreen.

***Liriope spp.***-Evergreen. Shallow rooted.

***Mahonia nervosa* and *M. repens***- Oregon grape. Shallow rooted. Native!

***Narcissus spp.*** - Daffodil.

***Ompheloides spp.***- Deciduous ground cover.

***Ophiopogon japonica***- Mondo grass. Low, evergreen groundcover. Shallow roots.

***Oxalis oregana***- Wood sorrel. Native groundcover.

***Pachysandra terminalis***- Shallow rooted.

***Polystichum munitum***- Sword Fern. Native

***Sarcococca spp.***- Small shrubs 6"-3' tall.

***Saxifraga stolonifera***- Shallow rooted.

***Smilacina racemosa***- False Solomon's Seal.

***Symphytum spp.*** - Comfrey. Can be invasive if dug after planting.

***Viola labradorica***- Readily reseeds.

## WET SHADE

An area is often termed as wet shade due to heavy soil and poor drainage. In all cases of shade, mix in compost with the existing soil before planting. Keep in mind that digging in wet soil can lead to compaction, so remember to tread lightly!

***Acer circinatum***- Vine Maple

***Acorus spp.***- Evergreen, grass-like.

***Aruncus spp.***-Goat's Beard. Mid spring blooms.

***Astilbe spp.***- Bright summer blooms.

***Calthea spp.***- Early yellow flowers.

Spreads readily.

***Carex***- Soft grasses. Some are evergreen.

***Cornus stolonifera***- Red Twig Dogwood. Deciduous shrub. Great by streams.

***Gunnera manicata***- Loves pond edges.

***Fillipendula spp.***- Part shade

***Juncus effusa***- Tolerates standing water.

***Lamium spp.***- Groundcover.

***Ligularia spp.***- Fun foliage, late blooms.

***Lobelia cardinalis***- Red summer blooms.

***Metasequoia glyptostroboides***- Dawn Redwood. Deciduous conifer reaching 50-80' tall. Part shade.

***Mimulus spp.***- Monkey flower.

***Ompheloides spp.***- Deciduous ground cover with blue flowers in spring.

***Pachysandra terminalis***- Evergreen ground cover. Shallow rooted.

***Petasites spp.*** - Running plants with large leaves.

***Polygonatum spp.***- Solomon's seal. Does not tolerate standing water.



***Rodgersia spp.***- Large leaves. Loves stream sides and pond edges.

***Veratrum spp.***- False Hellebore.

Excellent foliage plant. Requires at least four hours of direct sun.

***Zantedeschia-*** Calla Lily.

Large white flowers.

Requires at least 4-6 hours of direct sun.

## DEEP SHADE

Areas of deep shade receive no direct sun in the height of the season. In dappled shade, some light filters through and there are more possibilities than listed here. Prepare deep shade areas for planting by first adding compost to the existing soil.

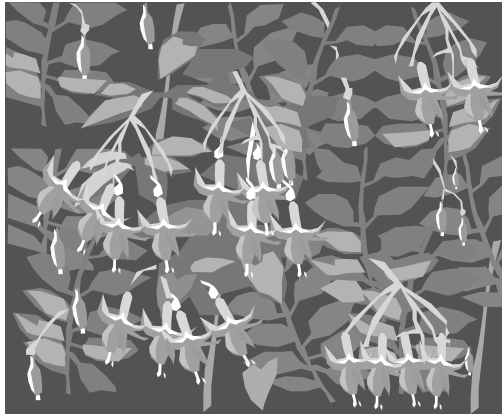
***Acanthopanax s. 'Variegata'***- Deciduous shrub 8-10'.

***Acer palmatum***- Variegated varieties.

***Asarum canadensis***- Wild Ginger. A creeping ground cover.

***Aucuba spp.***- Evergreen shrub reaching 8-10' tall and wide.

***Corydalis spp.***- Blue flowers in spring. Will not tolerate dry or wet shade.



***Fatshedera spp.***- A vining evergreen with large palmate leaves.

***Fuchsia***- Small flowered *F. magellanica* varieties tolerate deep shade.

***Hosta spp.***- non-variegated varieties.

***Lamium spp.***- Shallow rooted ground cover.

***Liriope spp.***- Evergreen grass like plant with lilac flowers.

***Lonicera spp.***- Evergreen shrubs reaching 3-6' tall and wide.

***Mahonia nervosa, M. repens***- Oregon grape. Evergreen. 1-3' tall.

***Narcissus spp.***- Daffodil

***Sarcococca spp.***- Small evergreen shrubs 6"-3' tall.

***Tsuga spp.***- Hemlock. A large group of conifers that thrive in the shade.

***Viola spp.***- Early spring flowers.

## TIPS FOR TOUGH SHADE

### Dry Shade

Mulch beds to help maintain soil moisture, and promotes healthy soil microbes. We recommend mulching with compost at least once a year in the fall.

If tree roots are too dense, cover planting area with 6-8" of compost and soil mixture. Plant directly into this mix. Lift plants and replenish soil mixture every five years.

In addition, you can put down some synthetic or metal screening over the tree roots to prevent them from growing into your new planting. Then put down 6-8" of compost and soil mix. Shallow rooted plants work very well under heavily rooted trees.

### Wet Shade

In addition to adding compost to your soil, you can also add pumice to improve drainage.

Try to avoid walking in areas of wet shade as much as possible. Walking on wet soil can lead to soil compaction.

Written by Laura Altvater

# Tough Shade Situations

## Recommendations for Dry, Damp and Deep Shade



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## SHADES OF SHADE

In a city with so many large trees and heavy rains, there are many difficult, shady planting areas. Here we discuss the three most difficult shade situations: dry, wet and deep shade. Dry shade often occurs beneath conifers or deciduous trees. In this situation, new plants have to compete for water with an established tree. Dry shade can also occur under the eaves of houses. Wet shade can be a poorly drained corner, a streamside, or truly boggy soils. The third challenging shade gardening area is full, deep shade. Deep or full shade does not receive any direct sun all day, but may have light. For example, the north side of a house, which only receives reflected light, is deep shade. If you have a combination of any of these situations, dry deep shade under a conifer, look for plants listed in both categories.

Cultural tips for establishing new plants are outlined in the tips for tough shade section. Please keep in mind that plants are subject to seasonal availability.