

Dry Shade? Dig In!

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How much shade? Full shade, partial shade, **Light shade** East side of house – rhodies, cammelias, azaleas, hydrangeas **Heavy shade:** North side of house – hosta, sarcacocoa, yews, groundcovers, hosta, brunnera, acuba

Try pruning overhead branches, thinning trees.

How dry is soil? Cedar and birch trees steal moisture. Rhododendrons have shallow roots better companions for shade plants.

Improve the soil with organic matter: Add 2 to 4 inches of compost and dig in! (This allows you to grow woodland plants such as brunnera, primula, bleeding heart, Japanese Forest Grass Mulching helps to hold moisture, keep down weeds.

There are plants that will survive in very dry shade near cedar trees: Vinca minor, sedum “Angelina”, euphorbia, lamium, bluebells, sword ferns, huckleberry, mahonia, nandina, lily of the valley bulbs.

Formal Shade – for front yard or patio area: hydrangeas, yews, sweetbox or sarcacocoa for hedging, saxifrage, heucheras for tidy color.

Best grass: Bowels Golden Carex, also use Euphorbia near cedar roots.

All year color: Hellebores, snowdrops, cyclamen, False solomon’s seal, bleeding heart, hosta, ferns, Japanese anemone, Toad lily, winter green.

Fool the eye with screening, use structures and garden art for focal points and color, empty urns, painted benches, baskets that hang from tree branches.

Shaded Lawns:

- Aerate, add lime, fertilize twice a year with slow release lawn food, use shade mix grass seed,
- Use stepping stones or wood chips for pathway
- Choose weed-blocking groundcovers such as pachysandra, ajuga, lamiums, pulmonaria at fringes of lawn – then let them spread as you continue to shrink the lawn.

Shrubs and Understory Trees: Japanese maples, native dogwood, viburnums, rhododendrons with furry leaves (yaks) or pale blooms (Christmas Cheer rhododendron) Acuba, Fastia Japonica, Hydrangeas

Consider the leaf: Lamiums come in many colors and varieties, all are shade survivors. Gold and white variegation light up the darkness.

- Mix bold large hosta leaves with fine, small foliage of creeping Jenny, lamiums and spiky foliage of heuchera, black mondo grass, Japanese Forest Grass,
- **Bloomers for the shade: Winter:** hellebore, snowdrops, **Early spring:** pulmonaria, primula, forget-me-nots **Late Spring:** coreydalis, epimedium, brunnera, vinca, **Summer:** foxgloves, begonias, fuchsia, lobelia, coleus, **Fall:** Japanese anemone,

Design Ideas: Be inspired by a theme – but not locked in to the theme

Bird Lovers Garden: Focal point of bird bath, painted birdhouses on posts, layers of vine maples, viburnums, pulmonaria, coreopsis, fuchsias

Green and White Garden: Focal point of star magnolia or pagoda dogwood (Cornus alternifolia) underplanted with lamium ‘white nancy’, false solomon’s seal, Japanese anemone, white lobelia, begonia, impatiens in white or dark pots

Fern and Foliage Garden: Sword fern close to tree trunks, Japanese painted fern and orange Autumn Fern in improved soil, bold blue hosta, colorful heuchera (bright yellow heuchera ‘citronell’) plus creeping jenny groundcover

Slime Time: Slug control tips on my blog at www.lowes.com/LCI-Gardening ut bait for slugs in the “A” months of April and August. Sluggo, worry-Free, safe baits.

Use slug resistant plants (groundcovers, heucheras, lamiums, shrubs, ferns)

Slug melting Spray: use spray on hosta after a rain to destroy tiny baby slugs – mix ¼ ammonia with ¾ water and put into Windex bottle.

Got questions? Go to www.plantersplace.com and I answer within 24 hours.

Friend me on Facebook at Marianne Binetti