



# FACEBOOK LIVE SEMINAR

## How to Create a Shade Garden

Struggling to find plants for those shady spots? No worries! Shade offers the opportunity to grow some wonderful, unique plants that not only tolerate lack of sun but actually prefer it. Large trees and shady areas in your yard can present a challenge to even the most creative gardener, but growing in the shade doesn't have to be frustrating. Liven up your shady spaces with these shade-loving annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs that can be enjoyed year-round.

### NOT ALL SHADE IS CREATED EQUAL

- **Partial shade** - three to four hours of sun exposure each day, preferably during the cooler hours of the morning and early afternoon.
- **Filtered or dappled sunlight** - similar to partial shade. Sun that makes its way through the branches of a tree (or trees). Sunlight passes through the tree canopy and the leaves create a pattern of light and shadow, or dapple sunlight.
- **Full or deep shade** - less than two to three hours of direct sunlight each day with filtered sunlight the rest of the day, such as at the base of a north-facing wall or below dense evergreen trees.

*TIP: The east side of homes typically receive morning sun with shade in the afternoon. Northern side of homes generally receive very little light.*

### PLANNING YOUR SHADE GARDEN

When planning your shade garden, we recommend that you create an overhead drawing that includes your garden's specific dimensions.

It's also helpful to mark north and south to help identify lighting conditions and determine what types of plants will work best.

Before buying plants, assess your garden for light and know the amount of sun your garden receives. How dense is the shade? What time of day do you get sun? Is it milder morning sun or stronger afternoon sun? Also take into account the type of soil you have- wet or dry, clay or sand, etc.

Consider these other design features when planning your shade garden:

- **Color** - brighten up shady spaces by incorporating an assortment of colorful, flowering plants or use a single color to define chosen color theme.
- **Foliage texture and color.** Blend different foliage shapes, textures and colors. Interesting foliage will add drama and dimension providing a beautiful backdrop for flowers.
- **Layering** - helps move your eye through the landscape. Place taller plants in the back with smaller, shorter plants in front.
- **Mass plantings** - for big impact and easier maintenance, group several of the same plant or several plants that have similar color, texture, and density together. Use groups in odd numbers (3, 5, etc.).
- **Curved/sweeping lines** - sweeping curves and meandering bed lines introduce a sense of movement and help guide the eye through the design.
- **Water** - add a fountain or bird bath to reflect light, create movement and add sound.

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- **Walkways** - provides a safe and easy path in and out of the garden, and helps to visually connect your garden and home. Use materials like mulch, pavers or rock to create pathways.
- **Statuary** - incorporating a special piece of statuary into your shade garden is a great way to add a focal point to your outdoor space.
- **Lighting** - lighting can help draw attention and illuminate shady areas (or plants) in the late afternoon and into the evening.

*TIP: Use white (or light colored) flowers and variegated foliage plants. Whites, pale creamy yellows, and light colors jump out at you in the shade. If you want to use the darker colors, back them with variegated foliages or lighter colored flowers.*

### TREES THAT CREATE SHADE:

**Large trees** - those that grow to 30 to 50 feet high.

*willow oaks • maples (October Glory) • river birch • zelcobas*

**Understory trees** - those that are small enough and are shade tolerant to thrive under the canopies of other taller trees.

*crepe myrtles • cherries • ornamental trees (pear)*

### TREES FOR SHADE

*dogwoods • redbuds • Japanese maples*

### SHRUBS FOR SHADE

*hydrangeas • azaleas • camellias • boxwood, fatsia • mahonia • gardenias • daphne • false yew • rhododendron*

### PERENNIALS FOR SHADE

*ferns • hostas • heuchera • hellebores • carex • acorus • peonies • leopard plant • acanthus • astillbe • cast iron*

### GROUNDCOVERS FOR SHADE

*liriope • vinca • mondo grass • sedum ogon*

### VINES FOR SHADE

*climbing hydrangeas • clematis • jasmine*

### HOUSEPLANTS FOR SHADE

Most all tropical plants will do well in shade.

*ferns • anthurium • cordyline • palms • croton • snake plants • philodendron*

### ANNUALS FOR SHADE

*begonias • shrimp plant • coleus • impatiens*

### SHADE GARDEN DESIGN ACCESSORIES

Incorporating garden accessories into your design will add personality, beauty, and in some cases, functionality. Change the look and feel of your garden space easily by rotating or swapping out accessories seasonally.

Larger garden decoration elements, such as gazebos, arbors, patio furniture or ornamental stones, can provide a focal point in your garden. Plan these elements carefully, since they are harder to relocate than smaller elements like potted plants, birdbaths and houses, gazing globes or wind chimes.

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