

## Ferns

Ferns are great shade plants. In their natural habitat, they love a cool, shaded, woodland environment where there's plenty of moisture. Sheltered out of direct sunlight and strong winds they thrive in a fertile soil. Application of a high nitrogen feed in spring will help boost fertility. Larger tree ferns like the Dicksonia tree ferns (see our 'Dicksonias' leaflet) can also make a dramatic statement with their splendid fronds and slow growing, fibrous trunks. An architectural specimen that will 'wow' in any garden, with the correct care.

## Creating a shady space...

In shady corners, a mixture of shrubs, herbaceous perennials, ferns and bulbs can be combined to create a wonderful space of varying textures and colours.

Moist, shady areas are ideal for ferns that enjoy lush woodland conditions, alongside the likes of Anemones and Polyanthus.

Shady sites beneath hedges and trees are often drier and more suitable for bulbs like Snowdrops and Bluebells, perennials like Hellebores and Bergenia and woodland plants like Digitalis (Foxgloves).

## A few things to think about...

- ◆ Don't let your shade plants dry out – water them thoroughly before and after planting – especially while they are establishing / for the first year.
- ◆ Consider painting walls or fences around the plants in white or light colours to promote light and growth.
- ◆ Snails and slugs thrive in damp shade – to control the problem we recommend Slug Gone wool pellets, used coffee granules ...or slicing the big slugs in half!
- ◆ Do not plant when the soil is very dry, waterlogged or frozen – autumn is often the best time to plant.

## Further Information

Please note that this information is only intended as a guide – put together from our knowledge and experience.

It should be noted, that on occasion, a plant or tree can thrive in one situation but struggle under almost identical conditions. Like us, plants are living individuals – all different and unique. They should therefore be treated as such.

One of the best bits of advice we can give you however, is to have a look at your neighbour's garden and see what they are growing. You are likely to be able to enjoy the same in your own garden.



# Shade Plants

For more information get in touch with us, and we'll do our best to help and advise you.



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**for a dark, shady site**

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Aucuba Goldstrike

## Background

With so much attention given to plants that thrive in full or partial sun, it's time to move the spotlight over to those that suit alternative conditions.

This leaflet focuses on a much appreciated collection of plants that can survive in shady north or east facing gardens, or in shady spots in any garden, facing any aspect; and still display striking or interesting foliage throughout the year.

Shade isn't something to be daunted by—it actually provides an opportunity to grow many wonderful plants that create fascinating effects, quite often, with foliage rather than normal flowering displays.

Areas that are shaded by overhanging deciduous trees may even provide an opportunity for splashes of dramatic colour with spring bulbs, before the trees come back into leaf.

## Shade Plants

### Astelias

Grown for their architectural form and striking foliage, Astelias are great in pots and containers in a partially shady position.

### Aucuba

The striking variegated leaves on varieties of these plants brighten any dry, shady area of the garden.

### Cotoneaster

Popular, decorative shrubs or small trees grown for their attractive habit, flowers in spring/summer, and decorative fruit.

### Fatshedera

Evergreen shrub or 'ivy tree' that can be trained to climb. Attractive glossy leaves and panicles of small flowers bring interest to a wall-side border.

### Fatsia

Make a dramatic statement in a shady area with the large sub-tropical looking leaves of a Fatsia – at its greenest in deep shade.

### Hedera

The more commonly known 'Ivy' is an evergreen climbing shrub, that clings by aerial roots, with small flowers, usually followed by black berries

### Pyracantha

A pretty, spiny shrub that provides much needed colour in a shady spot with its foliage, flowers & fruit. Can also be a great hedge.

### Skimmia

Simple aromatic leaves on this compact shrub provide interest, whilst complementing its attractive flowers and berries (on female plants).

Others include Mahonia, Vinca, Camellia & Azalea

## Shade & Dry Shade Perennials

### Shade Perennials

(plants for moist, shady sites)

- Acanthus mollis
- Astilbe
- Helleborus
- Hosta
- Ligularia
- Physostegia
- Polyanthus
- Rudbeckia

### Dry Shade Perennials

(plants for drier, shady corners e.g. beneath trees)

- Anemone
- Bergenia
- Brunnera
- Digitalis (Foxgloves)
- Doronicum
- Euphorbia
- Pulmonaria



Astelia Red Devil