



## Understanding Light Requirements For Plants/Shade Tolerant Plant List

Your annual/perennial bed receives a few hours of morning sun, but shade during the rest of the day. So, should you consider plants that require shade, partial shade, or partial sun conditions?

The following provides a description of various light conditions (and other descriptive names) ranging from full sun to dense shade:

**FULL SUN:** Direct sunlight on plant all day

**PARTIAL SHADE:** (Also called "Dappled Shade", "Half Shade", "Medium Shade", and "Semi-Shade")

In summer when sun is most intense from 10:00 a.m. ---- 6:00 p.m. there is either:

A. 4-5 hours without direct sunlight on plant	-- <b>OR</b> - -	B. a defined dappled pattern of equal sun & shade all the time under trees whose leaves let sunlight through all day in a changing pattern (dappled shade).
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**FULL SHADE:** Shade all day. Under Full Shade conditions, plants do not receive any direct exposure to the sun. Under such growing conditions, plants receive only reflected, indirect light.

**DENSE SHADE:** (Also called "Deep Shade", and "Heavy Shade") No direct sunlight all day with very little reflected, indirect light.

## FULL SHADE TOLERANT PLANTS

### Perennials (Full Shade)

Bear's Breeches (*Acanthus mollis*)

Cast Iron Plant (*Aspidistra elatior*)

Cedar Sage (*Salvia roemeriana*)

Chocolate Soldier Plant (*Pseudanthemum*)

Columbine (*Aquilegia*)  
Coral Bells (*Heuchera*)  
Elephant Ears (*Alocasia* and *Colocasia* sp.)  
Ferns (*Nephrolepis*)  
Gingers (*Alpinia*)  
Heart Leaf Skullcap (*Scutellaria ovata* sp. *bracteata*)  
Horseherb (*Calyptocarpus vialis*)  
Hosta (heat tolerant varieties only)  
Lamium Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*)  
Lyre leaf sage (*Salvia lyrata*)  
Pidgeon Berry (*Rivina humilis*)  
Purple Heart (*Setcreasea pallida*)  
River Fern (*Thelypteris kunthii*)  
Rock Rose (*Pavonia lasiopetala*)  
Ruellia -dwarf (*Ruellia brittoniana*)  
Spiderwort (*Tradescantia*)  
Strawberry Begonia (*Saxifraga stolonifera*)  
Turkscap (*Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *drummondii*)  
Umbrella Plant (*Cyperus*)  
Wine Cups (*Callirhoe involucrate*)

**Shrubs (Full Shade)**

Abelia family (*Abelia*)  
Aucuba (*Aucuba japonica*)  
American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)  
Evergreen Sumac  
Holly, Dwarf Yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria* 'Nana')  
Honeysuckle Bush, White (*Lonicera albiflora*)  
Hydrangeas - Garden & Endless Summer  
Japanese Aralia (*Fatsia japonica*)  
Mahonia family varieties  
Nandina (dwarf only)  
Philodendron - Split Leaf, Hope, & Xanadu  
Ricepaper Plant- *Tetrapanax papyriferus*  
St. John's Wort (*Hypericum*)  
Texas Dwarf Palmetto (*Sabal minor*)  
Viburnum family plants

**Groundcovers & Vines (Full Shade)**

Algerian Ivy - (*Hedera canariensis*)

Aztec Grass (*Ophiopogon intermedius*)  
English Ivy - (*Hedera helix*)  
Fig Ivy (*Ficus pumila*)  
Frog Fruit (*Phyla incisa*)  
Lily of the Nile – (*Agapanthus*)  
Liriope - (*Liriope muscari*)  
Monkey Grass (*Ophiopogon japonicus*)  
Sedges  
Spring Cinquefoil (*Potentilla tabernaemontani*)  
Vinca major  
Vinca minor  
Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

## **PLANTS FOR PART SHADE OR DAPPLED SHADE**

### **Perennials and Herbs (Part Shade/Dappled Shade)**

Bacopa  
Betony, Purple (*Stachys officinalis*)  
Betony, Texas (*Stachys coccinea*)  
Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*)  
Bicolor Iris (*Morea bicolor*)  
Calla Lily (*Zantedeschia*)  
Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)  
Chameleon plant (*Houttuynia cordata*)  
Chocolate Soldier Plant (*Pseudoanthemum*)  
Chili Pequin  
Clematis - Sweet Autumn  
Columbine (*Aquilegia*)  
Coral Bells (*Heuchera*)  
Cuphea, Batface (*Cuphea llavea*)  
Elephant Ears, shade loving (*Alocasia*)  
Firecracker Plant (*Russelia equisetiformis*)  
Foxglove (*Digitalis*)  
Ginger, Variegated, All (*Alpina sanderae*)  
Ground Orchid (*Bletilla striata*)  
Gulf Penstemon (*Penstemon tenuis*)  
Hosta (*hosta spp.*)  
Ice Plants (*Delosperma cooperi* & *Aptenia cordifolia*)

Jimson Weed or Gypsum Weed (*Datura*)

Leopard Plant (*Ligularia/Farfugium*)

Lily – (*Lilium*)

Liriope - (*Liriope muscari*) Lily

Mexican Petunia Dwarf (*Ruellia*)

Mint (*Mentha*)

Mexican Oregano (*Lippia graveolens*)

Mexican Tarragon (*Tagetes lucida*)

Mexican Tuberose (*Polianthes tuberosa*)

Mondo Grass - (*Ophiopogon japonicus*)

New Zealand Flax - (*Phormium tenax*)

Ox-Eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)

Oxalis (*Nepeta*)

Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*)

Penstemon (*Penstemon digitalis*)

Persian Chocolate Moneywort (*Lysimachia congestiflora*)

Persian Shield - *Strobilanthes*

Rain Lily (*Zephyranthes*)

River Fern (*Thelypteris kunthii*)

Rock Rose (*Pavonia lasiopetala*)

Sage, Majestic (*Salvia guaranitica*)

Sage, Tropical (*Salvia coccinea*)

Shrimp Plant (*Justicia*)

Spiderwort (*Tradescantia* spp.)

Skullcap, Pink (*Scutellaria suffrutescens*)

Spotted Dead Nettle (*Lamium*)

Strawberry Begonia (*Saxifraga stolonifera*)

Persian Shield - *Strobilanthes*

Plumbago - Blue and White types

Turkscap (*Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *drummondii*)

Umbrella Plant (*Cyperus*)

Wallflower (*Erysimum linifolium*)

Wine Cups (*Callirhoe involucrata*)

Yarrow (*Achillea*)

### **Part Shade Grasses and Grass-Like Plants**

Bamboo Muhly (*Muhlenbergia dumosa*)  
Horsetail (*Equisetum scirpoides*)  
Inland Sea Oats (*Chasmanthium*)  
Mexican Feathergrass (*Nassella tenuissima*)  
Sedge, Blue (*Carex flacca*)  
Sedge, Berkeley (*Carex tumulicola*)  
Sweet Flag (*Acorus americanus*)  
Sweet Violets (*Viola* spp.)

### **Part Shade - Shrubs**

Abelia family - Glossy Abelia, Edward Goucher, (*Abelia x grandiflora*)  
Aucuba (*Aucuba japonica*)  
Azalea - Encore series Azaleas (*Rhododendron*)  
Barbados Cherry & Dwarf (*Malpighia glabra*)  
Boxwood, Japanese - Baby Gem, Green Gem, Winter Gem (*Buxus sempervirens*)  
Camellia family  
Chinese Fringe Flower (*Loropetalum*)  
Coralberry (*Symphoricarpa*)  
Cotoneaster family varieties  
Escallonia  
Euonymous family varieties  
Gardenia *jasminoides*  
Holly family varieties - (*Ilex*)  
Hydrangeas - Garden & Endless Summer  
Japanese Yew (*Podocarpus*)  
Jasmine family - Primrose, Italian, Florida & Winter  
Indian Hawthorn varieties (*Raphiolepis*)  
Ligustrum - Waxleaf, Curly Leaf, Jap. & Variegated (Privet)  
Mahonia family varieties  
Nandina - All varieties  
Philodendron - Split Leaf, Hope, & Xanadu  
Philadelphus - Mock Orange  
Pittosporum  
Prunus *caroliniana* - Compact 'Bright N Tight'  
Ricepaper Plant (*Tetrapanax papyriferus*)  
Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)  
Sweet Olive (*Osmanthus fragrans*)  
Silverberry (*Elaeagnus x ebbingei*)

Sumac family varieties  
Viburnum family variety of plants  
Wax Myrtle (*Myrica*) & Dwarf  
Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow (*Brunfelsia*)

**Trees (Part Shade)**

Cherry Laurel (*Prunus caroliniana*) & hybrids  
Eve's Necklace (*Sophora affinis*)  
Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*) & hybrids  
Mexican Buckeye (*Ungnadia speciosa*)  
Mountain Laurel, Texas (*Sophora secundiflora*)  
Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*)  
Redbud, Mexican or Texas (*Cercis canadensis*)  
Rhus (Sumac)  
Texas Persimmon (*Diospyros texana*)  
Rusty Blackhaw (*Viburnum rufidulum*)  
Viburnum  
Yaupon Holly (Pride of Houston)

**Groundcovers (Part Shade)**

Ajuga (*Ajuga reptans*)  
Asian Jasmine (*Trachelospermum asiaticum*)  
Clematis - Sweet Autumn (*Clematis terniflora*)  
Dalea, Gregg (*Dalea greggii*)  
Horseherb (*Calyptocarpus vialis*)  
Liriope (*Liriope muscari*)  
Mondo Grass (*Ophiopogon*)  
Mountain Pea (*Orbexilum* sp. nov)  
Myoporum (*Myoporum parvifolium*)  
Plumbago, Dwarf (*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*)  
Sedum(s)  
Violet (*Viola missourensis*)

**Vines (Part Shade)**

Boston Ivy (*Parthenocissus*)  
Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*)  
English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)  
Fig Ivy (*Ficus pumila*)  
Honeysuckle, Coral (*Lonicera sempervirens*)

Honeysuckle, Japanese (*Lonicera japonica* )  
Star Jasmine (*Trachelospereum jasmoides*)  
Trumpetvine (*Campsis radicans*)  
Virgin's Bower (*Clematis paniculata*)

**Bedding Plants (Part Shade)**

Balsam (*Balsminaceae*)  
Begonia (Greenleaf Wax Leaf type)  
Browallia (*Browallia speciosa*)  
Caladium  
Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)  
Coleus (*Plectranthus scutellarioides*)  
Cyclamen (*Cyclamen persicum*)  
Impatiens (*Impatiens walleriana*)  
Shamrocks (*Oxalis*)  
Perilla (*Perilla frutescens*)  
Polka Dot Plant *Hypoestes*  
Sweet Potato Vine (*Ipomea batatas*)  
Wishbone Flower (*Torenia*)

Although these plants are listed for shade, they will still take time to adapt to your conditions. There is no telling what depth of shade our plants have been grown in so they will need some time to acclimate. When they are acclimating they may go through some stress. Your plantings might defoliate some or even stretch a little until they have adapted to your exact conditions. Proper planting, pruning and maintenance are key factors in helping them to settle in properly.