

# SHADE GARDENING

HOUSTON PLANTS & GARDEN WORLD



## A little light gives a lot of color

A shady spot can be a beautiful retreat during the hot summer and it doesn't have to be all leafy green. With a little planning, you can enjoy vibrant color even in the shade!

There are three types of shade:

1. Deep shade is found under low-branched trees or on the north side of a building. Best for green foliage, ivy groundcovers and ferns.
2. Medium shade is anywhere there is light but not direct sun. Impatiens and begonias love medium shade.
3. Open shade has dappled light under a thin, high canopy of trees, filtered sun beneath an arbor or trellis or low light that hits in the early morning or late afternoon. Hydrangeas flower best in bright or partial shade.

Although it's challenging to get a lot of color in areas that are deeply shaded, color can come from the leaves of Caladium, Coleus and other plants that have colorful foliage. In a partially shaded garden, a little bit of light opens up your planting options. Here are a few colorful plants for your shade garden. Visit our garden center for a full selection or more information.

We're here to help!

### SHADE GARDEN PLANTS

Caladium, Begonia, Hydrangea, Impatiens, Ivy, Monkey Grass, Pentas, Agapanthus, Elephant Ear, Fern, Lariope, Sago Palm, Violet, Purple Heart

### Tips for shade planting

- Know which types of shade you have before choosing what to plant.
- Prepare the soil to add nutrients and improve texture. Add compost and work in well.
- Be mindful of planting near tree roots and try not to add more than 2 inches of soil. Doing so could cut the oxygen supply to the tree.
- Shady areas can be dry, so adjust your watering accordingly.
- Mulch for moisture, weed control and a neat look.

  
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