

# Dry Shade Plant List

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## How dark is heavy Shade?

Light shade – dapple sun all day or about 4 to 6 hours of direct sun. A wide range of plants thrive in this condition with minimal watering. If this is your only shade you do not need to be in this class.

Open shade – bright light, but without much sun reaching the area or overhead trees adding to the shade. Slightly less sun than light shade, but still very bright with a wide range of plant options. Great for golden foliaged and touchy plants that burn in full sun.

Medium shade – some dappled light during the day or two to three hours of direct sun, overhead trees. If you look up into the canopy there is roughly one quarter to one third of the sky visible through the trees. Still enough light to have a good selection of plants. Woodland favorites like rhododendrons will still flower here but only with about half the bloom they would have with more sun.

Heavy shade – No direct light, dense overhead trees. Less than one quarter of the sky is visible through the tree canopy. Few plants bloom well here look to texture and foliage to make the garden work.

Dense heavy shade – You cannot see your hand in front of you at noon. Pave location and decorate with garden gnomes or move.

\* Plants that will tolerate very heavy dry shade

## **Perennials**

Acanthus mollis  
Acanthus spinosissimus  
Actaea rubra  
Asarum canadense (good groundcover)  
Asarum caudatum \*  
Asarum hartwegii \*  
Brunnera macrophylla  
Convallaria majalis (good groundcover)  
Dicentra formosa \*  
Epimedium 'Black Sea'  
Epimedium alpinum  
Epimedium pinnatum ssp. colchicum (good groundcover)  
Epimedium pubigerum \*  
Epimedium x perralchicum \* (good groundcover)  
Epimedium x rubrum \* (good groundcover)  
Epimedium x versicolor (good groundcover)  
Epimedium x warleyense  
Euphorbia amygdaloides 'Robbiae' (good groundcover)  
Geranium macrorrhizum  
Geranium nodosum  
Helleborus argutifolius  
Helleborus foetidus  
Heuchera americana  
Heuchera grossulariifolia  
Iris foetidissima  
Iris tenax  
Luzula nivea  
Luzula sylvatica  
Ophiopogon japonicus  
Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Nigrescens'  
Oxalis oregana \* (good groundcover)  
Pachyphragma macrophyllum  
Polygonatum biflorum (good groundcover)  
Polygonatum odoratum (good groundcover)  
Polygonatum x hybridum (good groundcover)  
Rohdea japonica  
Saxifraga x polita 'Dentata'  
Saxifraga x umbrosa  
Sedum oreganum  
Sedum spathulifolium  
Smilacina racemosa \*  
Smilacina stellata (good groundcover)  
Thalictrum occidentale  
Tolmiea menziesii  
Trachystemon orientalis  
Trillium ovatum  
Vancouveria hexandra (good groundcover)  
Vancouveria planipetala  
Viola glabella  
Waldsteinia ternata (good groundcover)

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## **Shrubs**

Aucuba japonica \*  
Azara dentata  
Azara microphylla  
Berberis darwinii  
Buxus sempervirens \*  
Camellia japonica  
Cornus alba  
Cornus stolonifera  
Elaeagnus pungens \*  
Elaeagnus x ebbingei \*  
Euonymus fortunei  
Fatsia japonica \*  
Garrya elliptica  
Gaultheria shallon \*  
Ilex crenata \*  
Kerria japonica  
Laurus nobilis  
Lonicera nitida  
Luma apiculata  
Mahonia japonica  
Mahonia nervosa \*  
Mahonia x media  
Myrica californica \*  
Nandina domestica \*  
Osmanthus decorus  
Osmanthus delavayi \*  
Osmanthus heterophyllus  
Osmanthus x burkwoodii \*  
Osmanthus x fortunei  
Paxistima myrtifolia (myrsinites)  
Pittosporum tobira  
Rhododendron macrophyllum  
Rhododendron ponticum  
Ruscus aculeatus \*  
Ruscus hypoglossum \*  
Sambucus nigra \*  
Sambucus racemosa \*  
Sarcococca confusa \*  
Sarcococca hookeriana var. humilis \*  
Sarcococca ruscifolia \*  
Skimmia japonica  
Vaccinum ovatum \*  
Vaccinum parvifolium \*  
Viburnum opulus 'Nana'  
X Fatshedera lizei \*  
Xanthorrhiza simplicissima

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## **Bulbs**

Anomatheca (Lapeirousia) laxa (light or open shade only)

Arum italicum \*

Cyclamen coum

Cyclamen hederifolium \*

Cyclamen purpurascens

## **Conifers** (best in light to medium shade)

Chamaecyparis obtusa

Cryptomeria japonica

Podocarpus nivalis

Sequoia sempervirens 'Adpressa'

Sequoia sempervirens 'Prostrata'

Taxus \*

Thuja plicata 'Whipcord'

Tsuga canadensis

## **Ferns**

Athyrium filix-femina (light or open shade only)

Blechnum chilense

Dryopteris affinis

Dryopteris dilatata

Dryopteris erythrosora \*

Dryopteris expansa \*

Dryopteris filix-mas

Dryopteris x complexa

Gymnocarpium dryopteris (disjuncta) (good groundcover)

Osmunda claytonia

Osmunda regalis

Polypodium glycyrrhiza

Polypodium scolieri

Polypodium vulgare

Polystichum acrostichoides

Polystichum braunii

Polystichum munitum \*

Polystichum setiferum