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G96-1346 Plants for Shade Landscapes

Don Steinegger

University of Nebraska--Lincoln, dsteinegger1@unl.edu

Donald E. Janssen

University of Nebraska - Lincoln, djanssen2@unl.edu

Roch E. Gaussoin

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, rgaussoin1@unl.edu

Steven Rodie

University of Nebraska--Lincoln, srodie1@unl.edu

Anne Streich

University of Nebraska--Lincoln, astreich2@unl.edu

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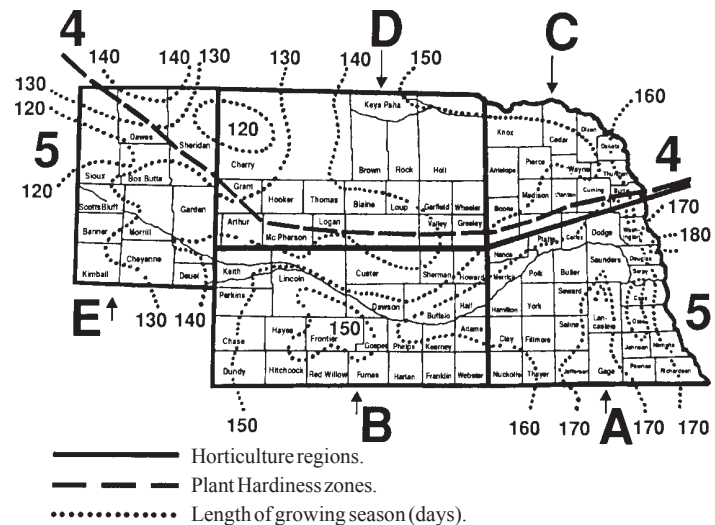
Plants for Shade Landscapes

Donald Steinegger, Extension Horticulture Specialist; Don Janssen, Extension Educator;
Roch Gaussoin, Extension Turfgrass Specialist; Steven Rodie, Extension Landscape Horticulture Specialist; and
Anne Streich, Extension Horticulturist

This NebGuide includes a plant list for shade landscapes.

While some may think of shade as a deterrent to gardening, it can be an asset if the special needs of shade-loving plants are considered. There are also ways to reduce the amount of shade, allowing more sunlight and air circulation into the landscape. To solve shade garden problems, shade's positive and negative aspects need to be considered. For more information on shade gardening refer, to NebGuide G97-1341, *Landscapes for Shade*.

The following is a list of plants best adapted to growing in shade conditions. Because no single plant list is suitable for every landscape, deciding which plants to use depends on specific site requirements and personal taste.



Nebraska climatic zones.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Height	Spread	Location	Remarks
Annuals							
Flowering Tobacco	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Broad range	Summer	10-18"	6-12"	Moist, fertile, well-drained soil	Cultivars: 'Nicky' series
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	White, yellow, pink, purple, red	Summer	2-3'	18"	Moist, well-drained soil	Biennial, but sometimes grown as an annual, cultivar: 'Foxy'
Impatiens	<i>Impatiens</i> species	Broad range	Summer	6-12"	8-10"	Moist, well-drained soil	'New Guinea' series good in containers
Salvia	<i>Salvia</i> species	Broad range	Summer	6-24"	12-18"	Fertile, well-drained, moist soil	Cultivar: 'Blue Victoria'
Wax Begonia	<i>Begonia x semperflorens-cultorum</i>	Red, pink, white	Summer	6-12"	4-8"	Fertile, well-drained soil	Waxy green, brown or red foliage
Perennials							
Anemone	<i>Anemone x hybrida</i>	White, pink	Late summer to fall	2-4'	2'	Fertile, moist soil High organic content	Zones 4-8 Spring and fall blooming cultivars
Arum	<i>Arum italicum</i>	Greenish white	Late spring	12-18"	18"	Moist soil High organic content	Zones 5-9 Summer dormancy

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Astilbe	<i>Astilbe x arendsii</i>	Broad range	Early summer	2-4'	2'	Fertile, moist soil	Zones 4-9 Many cultivars
Bergenia	<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>	Pink to red	Early to late spring	12-18"	12"	Moist, well-drained soil	Zones 3-8 Colorful fall foliage
Bleeding Heart	<i>Dicentra x hybrida</i>	Red, white	Early summer	2-3'	2-3'	Moist soil	Zones 3-8 Often summer dormant
Brunnera, Heart-Leaf	<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>	Blue	Early to late spring	12-18"	18"	Moist, well-drained soil	Zones 3-8 Easier to grow than Forget-Me-Not
Campanula	<i>Campanula glomerata</i>	Blue	Summer	18-24"	12"	Moist soil	Zones 3-8 Most shade tolerant of campanulas, cultivar: 'Joan Elliot'
Columbine	<i>Aguilegia x hybrida</i>	Broad range	Late spring, early summer	1-3'	12"	Moist, well-drained soil	Zones 3-9 Many cultivars Leaf miner may be a problem
Filipendula	<i>Filipendula</i> species	White, pink	Early to mid-summer	3-4'	Varies	Moist, well-drained soil High organic content	Zones 3-9 Vigorous grower
Forget-Me-Not	<i>Myostis sylvatica</i>	Blue	Spring	6-8"	6"	Moist, well-drained soil	Zones 3-8 Short-lived
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis x mertonensis</i>	Coppery pink	Early summer	3-4'	2'	Moist, well-drained, acidic soil	Zones 3-8 Only perennial, others biennial
Goats Beard	<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Cream	Early summer	4-6'	6'	Moist, well-drained soil	Zones 3-7 Cultivars: 'Child of Two Worlds', 'Kneiffi' good for small areas
Heuchera	<i>Heuchera</i> species	Green, white	Late spring, early summer	18"	12"	Moist, well-drained soil	Zones 4-9 Grown for foliage and flowers
Jack-in-the-pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Greenish brown	Early to mid-spring	1-2'	12"	Moist soil. High organic content	Zones 4-9 Unique flowers
Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	Yellowish green	Late spring to early summer	8-10"	24"	Moist, fertile soil	Zones 4-7 Dwarf cultivars available
Lenten Rose	<i>Helleborus orientalis</i>	Purple, pink, cream	Early spring	15-18"	15"	Moist, well-drained soil. High organic content	Zones 4-9 Semi-evergreen foliage, early blooms
Leopard's Bane	<i>Doronicum orientale</i>	Yellow	Early to mid-spring	18-24"	12-18"	Moist, well-drained soil	Zones 4-7 Summer dormancy, but continue watering
Meadow Rue	<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i>	Mauve	Late spring	2-3'	2-3'	Moist, well-drained soil	Zones 5-8 Deadhead to prevent reseeding
Pulmonaria	<i>Pulmonaria saccharata</i>	Pink changing to blue, white	Early to mid-spring	12-18"	24"	Moist, cool soil	Zones 3-8 Brilliant fall foliage color
Rodgersia	<i>Rodgersia</i> species	Creamy-pink	Late spring to mid-summer	3-4'	4'	Moist, well-drained soil	Zone 5-7 Textured foliage
Toad Lily	<i>Tricyrtis formosana</i>	Pale lilac with dark purple spots	Late summer	2'	18"	Moist, well-drained soil High organic content	Zones 4-8 Unusual shaped flowers
Virginia Bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Blue	Early spring	18-24"	12"	Moist, well-drained soil	Zones 3-9 Can be invasive, summer dormancy
White Baneberry	<i>Actaea alba</i>	White	Mid- to late spring	18-30"	2-3'	Moist, fertile soil High organic content	Zones 3-7 Glossy, white berries

Ground Covers

Aegopodium	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i> 'Variegatum'	White	Early summer	8-10"	12-16"	Well-drained soil	Zones 4-8 Aggressive spreader, drought tolerant once established
Bugleweed	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Broad range	Late spring	4-12"	12-16"	Moist, well-drained soil	Zones 3-9 Bronze, purple, or variegated foliage

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Epimedium	<i>Epimedium alpinum</i>	Crimson with red or yellow flush	Mid spring	8-12"	12"	Moist, well-drained soil High organic content	Zones 4-8 Slow to spread
Hosta	<i>Hosta species</i>	Broad range, some fragrant	Summer	Varies	Varies	Well-drained soil	Zones 3-8 Many cultivars. Green, blue, yellow, or variegated foliage
Lily of the Valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	White, fragrant	Spring	6-12"	12-16"	Moist, well-drained soil	Zones 2-7 Can be invasive
Spotted Dead Nettle	<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Broad range	Late spring	8-12"	12-16"	Moist, well-drained soil	Zones 3-8
Sweet Woodruff	<i>Galium odoratum</i>	White	Spring	4-9"	12"	Moist, well-drained soil	Zones 4-8 Can be invasive
Vinca	<i>Vinca minor</i>	Blue	Spring	6-12"	12-16"	Moist, well-drained soil	Zones 4-9 Drought tolerant once established
Wild Ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Greenish purple	Mid- to late spring	6-10"	12-16"	Moist soil High organic content	Zones 4-8 Small flowers hidden by leaves Can be invasive

Shrubs

Alpine Currant	<i>Ribes alpinum</i>	Greenish yellow	Early spring	3-6'	3-6'	Adapted to alkaline soil	Zones 2-7 Good hedge plant
American Filbert	<i>Corylus americana</i>	Yellowish brown	Early spring	8-10'	6-8'	Dry soil, light shade	Zones 4-9 Orange fall color
Buckthorn, Tallhedge Glossy	<i>Rhamnus frangula</i>	Creamy green, insignificant	Late spring	10-12'	10-12'	Dry, well-drained soil	Zones 2-7 Red to black fruit
Chokeberry, Black	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	White	Spring	3-5'	3-5'	Wet or dry soil	Zones 3-8 Red fall color, shrub selection for NSA's 'Great Plants for the Great Plains' Program
Chokeberry, Red	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	White	Early spring	6-10'	3-5'	Tolerates dry soil but prefers moist soil	Zones 4-9 Red fruits, red fall color
Coralberry	<i>Symphoricarpos x chenaultii</i>	Yellowish-white	Early spring	3-6'	3-6'	Tolerates dry soil	Zones 3-7 Pinkish white fruit
Cotoneaster, Peking	<i>Cotoneaster acutifolius</i>	Pinkish white	Late spring	5-8'	5-8'	Does well in dry soil once established	Zones 4-7 Orange to maroon fall color, purplish black fruit
Dogwood, Cornelian Cherry	<i>Cornus mas</i>	Yellow	Early spring	20'	15'	Well-drained soil	Zones 4-8 Valuable early spring bloom
Dogwood, Gray	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	White	Spring	10-15'	8-12'	Well-drained soil	Zones 4-8 Purple fall color, may sucker
Dogwood, Red Twig	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	White, insignificant	Late spring	6-10'	7-8'	Moist, well-drained soil	Zones 2-7 Variegated varieties available
Fiveleaf Aralia	<i>Acanthopanax sieboldianus</i>	Greenish white	Late spring	8-10'	8-10'	Tolerant of many soil conditions	Zones 4-8 Thorny, good shrub for difficult sites
Hydrangea, Annabelle	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> 'Annabelle'	White	Summer	3-5'	3-5'	Tolerates dry soil, prefers moist soil	Zones 3-9 Excellent for dried arrangements if flowers are removed before petals brown
Kerria	<i>Kerria japonica</i>	Yellow	Early spring	3-6'	3-6'	Well-drained soil	Zones 3-8 Dark green foliage
Mock Orange	<i>Philadelphus x virginialis</i>	White, fragrant	Late spring	8'	8'	Moist, well-drained soil High organic content	Zones 4-8 Cultivar 'Minnesota Snowflake' most hardy
Ninebark, Dwarf Common	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> 'Nanus'	White	Spring	2'	2-3'	Tolerates dry soil	Zones 2-7 Yellow foliage cultivars available
Privet, Regel's Border	<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i> 'regalianum'	White, fragrant	Early summer	4-5'	4'	Tolerates dry soil once established	Zones 3-7

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Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Pink, tiny	Late spring	3-6'	3-6'	Dry soil	Zones 3-7 White fruit
Viburnum, Arrowwood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	White	Spring	6-8'	6-8'	Well-drained soil	Zones 3-7 Maroon fall color Cultivar: 'Chicago Lustre'
Viburnum, Blackhaw	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	White	Spring	10-12'	8-10'	Tolerates dry soil	Zones 3-9 Rose maturing to black fruit, foliage red-purple fall
Viburnum, Judd	<i>Viburnum x juddii</i>	White, fragrant	Late spring	5-8'	5-8'	Tolerates dry soil, prefers moist soil	Zones 4-7 Very fragrant
Viburnum Wayfaring Tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i> 'Mohican'	White	Spring	8'	8'	Tolerates dry soil, prefers moist soil	Zones 4-7 Red changing to black fruit Maroon fall color
Witch Hazel, Vernal	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Yellow, fragrant	Fall	15-20'	15-20'	Moist, well- drained soil	Zones 3-8 Yellow fall foliage may hide flowers
Yew, Japanese Spreading	<i>Taxus cuspidata</i>	Green	Early spring	6'	6-8'	Moist, well- drained soil	Zones 4-7 Vase shape

Understory Trees (Trees small in stature which will grow under tall shade trees)

Dogwood, Pagoda	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	White, fragrant	Spring	15-25'	10-20'	Well-drained soil	Zones 3-7 Horizontal branching habit
Hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Red-brown catkins	Fall	15-20'	10-15'	Prefers moist, well-drained soil	Zones 3-9
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Reddish-purple	Spring	15-20'	10-15'	Tolerates many soil conditions. Prefers moist, well-drained soil	Zones 4-9
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier</i> x <i>grandiflora</i>	White	Spring	10-15'	6-10'	Tolerates many soil conditions. Prefers moist, well-drained soil	Zones 4-9 Many cultivars available.
White Fringetree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	White	Spring	12-20'	15-20'	Well-drained soil	Zones 3-9 Slow growing

Turfgrasses

<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Bluegrass, Rough	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Moderate to dense shade, light green color
Fescue, Chewings	<i>Festuca rubra</i> spp. <i>commutata</i>	Dense shade, blends well with Kentucky bluegrass
Fescue, Creeping Red	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Dense shade, blends well with Kentucky bluegrass
Fescue, Hard	<i>Festuca longifolia</i>	Dense shade, blends well with Kentucky bluegrass
Fescue, Sheep	<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Dense shade, blends well with Kentucky bluegrass
Fescue, Tall	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Moderate shade
Zoysiagrass	<i>Zoysia</i> species	Although moderate shade is tolerated, growth/recovery will be slow.

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