

Shrubs for shady areas

Latin Name:	Common Name:	Shade Tolerance:	Features:	Deciduous / Evergreen:
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry	Any	Low-growing habit / evergreen foliage / pinkish flowers / red berries.	E
<i>Aucubajaponica</i>	Spotted Laurel	Any	Glossy evergreen foliage / large red berries.	E
Bamboo- many	Bamboo	Light to Moderate	Bright green foliage / sturdy, coloured stems.	E
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box	Any	Smart green foliage / tiny yellow flowers / excellent hedging plant.	E
<i>Camellia</i>	-	Light to Moderate	Glossy dark green foliage / exotic, colourful blooms.	E
<i>Comus</i> - most	Dogwood	Light to Moderate	Colourful autumn foliage / brightly coloured stems / autumn berries.	D
<i>Corylopsis</i> - most	Winter Hazel	Light to Moderate	Early spring flowers / colourful spring and autumn foliage.	D
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	Light to Moderate	Spring catkins / twisted stems (C. <i>avellana</i> 'Contorta') / nuts in autumn.	D
<i>Cotoneaster</i>	-	Light to Moderate	Tough evergreen foliage / pink-white flowers / red or yellow berries.	E
<i>Danae</i>	Alexandrian Laurel	Any	Tough evergreen foliage (excellent for flower arrangers) / red berries.	E
<i>Daphne</i> - many	Daphne	Light to Moderate	Attractive foliage / sweetly scented flowers.	E/D
<i>Euonymus</i>	-	Any	Variiegated, hardy foliage / stands clipping.	E
<i>Fatshedra lizei</i>	-	Any	Large, variegated foliage.	E
<i>Fatsia japonica</i>	Caster Oil Plant	Any	Huge, tropical-looking foliage / some variegated.	E
<i>Fothergilla major</i>	-	Light	Eyecatching foliage in spring and autumn.	D
<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	Silk Tassel Bush	Light to Moderate	Long catkins / tidy, evergreen foliage.	E
<i>Gaetheria mucronata</i> (syn. <i>Pernettya</i>)	Prickly Heath	Light to Moderate	Small, glossy foliage / colourful round berries - eye catching in winter.	E
<i>Hamamelis</i>	Witch Hazel	Light	Stunning autumn foliage colour / unusual winter flowers.	D
<i>Hydrangea</i> - most	-	Light	Autumn leaf tints / huge summer flowers - different colours available.	D
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oak Leaved Hydrangea	Any	Huge leaves / autumn leaf tints / large pinnacles of white flowers.	D
<i>Hypericum calycinum</i>	St John's Wort	Any	Bright yellow flowers / excellent ground cover	E
<i>Ilex</i> - most	Holly	Light to Moderate	Glossy evergreen foliage (some variegated) / cheery winter berries.	E
<i>Leucothoe</i>	Sierra Laurel	Light to Moderate	Striking, colourful foliage / urn-shaped flowers.	E
<i>Loniceranitida</i>	Poor Man's Box	Any	Tiny evergreen leaves / ideal for topiary or hedging.	E
<i>Lonicera pileata</i>	-	Any	Neat evergreen leaves / good for hedging.	E
<i>Mahonia</i> - most	-	Light	Dramatic foliage / scented yellow flowers / blue-black berries.	E
<i>Osmanthus</i> - most	Sweet Olive	Any	Holly-like foliage / small flowers / heady scent.	E
<i>Pachysandra</i>	Spurge	Any	Excellent dense groundcover / glossy green foliage / small flower spikes.	E
<i>Philadelphus</i> (esp. variegated varieties)	Mock Orange	Light to Moderate	Golden or variegated foliage (some varieties) / white flowers / heady scent.	D
<i>Photinia x fraseri</i>	Red Robin	Light to Moderate	Bright red new growth / pinkish flower heads / eye catching plant.	E
<i>Pieris</i> - many	Forest Flame	Light to Moderate	Bright red or pink new growth / urn-shaped flowers / stunning.	E
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry Laurel	Any	Useful evergreen shrub / tough, green foliage / white flower spikes.	E
<i>Prunus lusitanica</i>	Portugal Laurel	Any	Dark green foliage / fragrant white flowers / red berries.	E
<i>Pyracantha</i>	Firethorn	Light to Moderate	Useful shrub / tidy foliage / white flowers / colourful autumn berries.	E
<i>Rhododendron</i>	-	Light to Moderate	Handsome foliage / stunning, brightly coloured flowers.	E
<i>Ribes</i>	Flowering Currant	Light	Autumn leaf tints / spring flowers / scent.	D
<i>Rubus</i> - many	Ornamental Bramble	Any	Useful foliage / large or showy flowers (some vars.) / berries.	D/E
<i>Ruscus</i>	Butchers Broom	Any	Tough, evergreen foliage / bright red berries / spines.	E
<i>Sambucus</i> - most	Elder	Light to Moderate	Colourful foliage (some vars.) / white flowers / berries - loved by birds.	D
<i>Sarcococca</i>	Christmas Box	Light to Moderate	Glossy, evergreen foliage / strongly scented flowers / small berries.	E
<i>Skimmia</i>	-	Light to Moderate	Glossy foliage / showy pinnacles of flower / berries on female plants.	E
<i>Symphonicarpus</i>	Snowberry	Any	Dainty variegated foliage (some vars.) / berries in pink or white.	D
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	Light to Moderate	Dense, evergreen foliage / red berries / excellent hedging plant.	E
<i>Vaccinium</i>	Blueberry	Light	Pleasing foliage / urn-shaped flowers / edible fruits.	D
<i>Viburnum</i> (evergreen varieties)	-	Any	Tough foliage / white or pink flower heads / followed by berries.	E
<i>Vinca</i>	Periwinkle	Any	Excellent ground cover plant / glossy foliage / large flowers.	E

Shrubs for... Shady Areas



Euonymus japonicus 'Aureus'

Further reading

Best Shade Plants

by Stefan Buczacki

ISBN 0-600-59734-2

Tough Plants for Tough Places

by Gary Vergine

& Michael Jefferson Brown

ISBN 0-7153-1021-6

Haskins Ferndown

Longham, Ferndown

Dorset BH22 9DJ

Tel: 01202 591919

Haskins West End

Mansbridge Road, Gaters Hill

West End, Southampton

SO18 3HW

Tel: 023 8047 2324

Haskins Roundstone

Roundstone Bypass,

Angmering

West Sussex BN16 4BD

Tel: 01903 777666

Haskins Snowhill

Snowhill Lane, Copthorne

West Sussex RH10 3EY

Tel: 01342 712545



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shrubs for... Shady Areas

Shrubs for shade

Shady areas within the garden need not be dark and dingy places where few plants flourish. Treated correctly, these areas may become a refuge from burning sun, providing a cool and leafy retreat in summer. In fact shade is essential for growing certain varieties of plant; indeed we would probably feel the need to create some, if totally without!

Shrubs that revel in shade in our gardens can be found growing wild among trees and on the northern slopes of mountain sides. By their very nature, these places are rich in leaf litter, accumulated over many generations and cooled by dappled sunlight and filtered wind.

For success we must mimic these conditions as closely as possible by providing plentiful amounts of humus in the form of compost, well rotted farmyard manure or homemade leaf mould to our garden soil. Exposed, windswept areas would benefit from a trellis panel or two to dissipate the force of the wind, allowing plants to flourish, sheltered safely behind.

Types of shade

1. Deep shade caused by the overhang of trees or tall conifer hedges is possibly one of the most challenging situations a gardener may be faced with. A dense foliage canopy will prevent most light and very little water from ever reaching the struggling plants below. Not to mention the wide reaching root system, well established deep below ground, searching for all available moisture. Areas such as these are usually already devoid of grass while the desire is to create a colourful, flower border.

Firstly assess the conditions. If the soil is dominated by hungry feeding roots from a tree, the realistic chances of survival of many shrubs is very poor, unless regular life saving drinks of water are provided each summer. Ornamental pots and containers can be used to excellent effect in these conditions, providing by far the best solution.

Choose bright and eye catching pots and fill with any of the tolerant shrubs mentioned in this leaflet. Grouped closely together, they can create quite a feature - INSTANTLY.

Add a statue or ornament to turn a once sorry area into an asset.

Spring flowering bulbs and small woodland flowers start to grow so early in the year that they have all but completed their growth cycle by the time foliage appears on the trees above to blot out the sunlight. These make colourful additions in natural drifts between permanent planting.

2. Sunless areas caused by buildings or high walls can be invaluable shady areas. Unfortunately they often bring with them the draw back of gusting winds, funnelled through an alleyway or gap between two buildings. These sites may also be colder than most. With careful considered planting, shady areas need not be a disadvantage. Once again, dig in plentiful supplies of organic matter (garden compost, well rotted manure or leaf mould), or Multi Purpose Compost to enrich the soil and retain moisture before planting begins.

3. Dappled shade cast by small garden trees, trellis or fence panels is precious in any garden. Providing delightful possibilities for creating a "Woodland Wonderland" or "Tropical Jungle". Light shade prevents scorch to delicate variegated or ferny foliage.



Mahonia aquifolium in flower.

The importance of moisture

In all instances, regular watering is required for newly planted shrubs, for at least the first 18 months - longer in drought years and to ensure plants do not struggle to become established.

Bright ideas

Why not position a gazebo, arbour or bench in a shady corner to create a delightful feature and cool retreat?

If a large tree dominates your garden, perhaps fit a circular seat around the trunk and carpet the ground with bark or pine cones?

Scatter gnarled, twisted logs and branches through a shaded area and mulch the ground with a thick layer of compost (at least 15cm/6" deep) and plant into that. Mulch with leaf litter or bark to complete the woodland feel.



A shady retreat.