

PLANTS/ SHRUBS FOR DRY SHADE

There are foliage and flowering plants, bulbs, and some shrubs that will survive under a full tree canopy, contending with root competition. Dry shade is not “permanently” shade or dry—wooded sites become dry in summer, but in spring and fall both water and light are available – and this is the key to survival.

Dealing with dry soil: ignore the lack of moisture and the inability of the soil to hold moisture; choose plants adapted to drought. You can, however, add lots of organic matter, covering surface roots carefully, building up just enough soil depth for planting, or, work the organic matter down into the soil.¹

Shrubs for Dry Shade: Deciduous

Black chokeberry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>
Roseshell azalea	<i>Rhododendron prinophyllum</i>
Pinxterbloom azalea	<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>
Piedmont rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron minus</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus</i> spp.
Fothergilla	<i>Fothergilla major</i>
Oak-Leaf hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>
Mahonia	<i>Mahonia</i> ‘Arthur Menzies’
Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium</i> spp.
Southern arrowwood	<i>Viburnum rafinesquianum</i>
Maple-leaf Viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>
Bush honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla</i> spp.
Mountain Andromeda	<i>Pieris floribunda</i>
Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>
Fragrant sumac	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>

Shrubs for Dry Shade: Evergreen

Mountain Laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>
Alexandrian laurel	<i>Danae racemosa</i>
Florida leucothoe	<i>Agarista populifolia</i>
Sweet box	<i>Sarcococca hookeriana</i> var. <i>humilis</i>

¹ See C. Colston Burrell. “Dry Shade Strategies,” *The Gardener* vol. 2, no. 4 (October-November 2002): 16-21. See also *Livable Plants for the Home Landscape*. Susan Barton et. al. [n.d.]: 12-13

Perennials for Dry Shade

Ajuga	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>
Wood anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>
Cast-iron plant	<i>Aspidistra elatior</i>
Wild ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>
Callaway wild ginger	<i>Asarum shuttleworthii</i>
Cast-Iron Plant	<i>Aspidistra</i> spp.
White wood aster	<i>Aster divaricatus</i> [now called <i>Eurybia divaricatus</i>]
Hardy begonia	<i>Begonia grandis</i>
Bergenia	<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>
Siberian forget-me-not	<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>
Great Bellflower	<i>Campanula latifolia</i>
Hardy cyclamen	<i>Cyclamen hererifolium</i>
Corydalis	<i>Corydalis lutea</i>

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Epimediums:

Frohnleiten barrenwort	<i>Epimedium x perralchicum</i> 'Frohnleiten'
<i>E. x versicolor</i> 'Cupreum,' 'Versicolor,' 'Sulphureum,' and 'Cheery Tears'	
Barrenwort	<i>Epimedium</i> sp.

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Robb's wood spurge	<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i> 'Robbiae'
Hyssop-leaved thoroughwort	<i>Eupatorium hyssopifolium</i>

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Ferns:

[Resurrection, American Wall, Polypody, etc.]	<i>Polypodium</i>
Long-eared holly fern	<i>Polystichum neolobatum</i>
Soft shield fern	<i>P. setiferum</i>
Christmas fern	<i>P. acrostichoides</i>
Korea rock fern	<i>P. tsussimense</i>
Makinoi's holly fern	<i>P. makinoi</i>
Marginal wood fern	<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>
Lacy fancy fern	<i>D. intermedia</i>
Mexican male fern	<i>D. pseudo-filix-mas</i>
Beaded wood fern	<i>D. bissetiana</i>
Eastern hay-scented fern	<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>
Interrupted fern	<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>

Wild geranium
Bowman's root

Geranium maculatum
Gillenia trifoliata

Grasses & Sedges for Dry Shade:

Evergold Sedge
White variegated monkey grass
Drooping Sedge
Crinkled hairgrass
Bottlebrush grass
Pennsylvania sedge
Hakone grass

Carex oshimensis 'Evergold'
Ophiopogon japonicus 'Fuiji Gyoku Ryu'
Carex pendula
Deschampsia flexuosa
Elymus hystrix
Carex pensylvanica
Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola'

Hepatica
Coral bells
Hairy alumroot
Lenten rose
Stinking hellebore
Bluebells
Stinking Iris
Liriope
Money Plant
Welsh poppy
Partridge berry
Allegheny pachysandra
Virginia creeper
Tall white beard-tongue
Woodland phlox
Prairie phlox
Jacob's ladder
Variegated solomon's seal
White-edged variegated sacred lily
Saruma
Woodland stonecrop
Golden ragwort
Bluestem goldenrod
Zig-zag goldenrod
False Lily of the Valley
Heart-leaf aster
Heath aster

Hepatica transsilvanica
Heuchera Americana
Heuchera villosa
Helleborus orientalis, *H. x hybridus*
Helleborus foetidus
Hyacinthoides
Iris foetidissima
Liriope spp.
Lunaria
Meconopsis cambrica
Mitchella repens
Pachysandra procumbens
Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Penstemon digitalis
Phlox divaricata
Phlox pilosa
Polemonium reptans
Polygonatum odoratum 'Variegatum'
Rohdea japonica
Saruma henryi
Sedum ternatum
Senecio aureus
Solidago caesia
Solidago flexicaulis
Speirantha
Symphyotrichum cordifolium
Symphyotrichum ericoides

Goldsmith comfrey *Symphytum grandiflorum* 'Goldsmith'
Trachystemon
Large flowered merrybells *Uvularia grandiflora*
Inside-out flower *Vancouveria hexandra*

Woodland perennials:

Bloodroot *Sanguinaria canadensis*
Trout lily *Erythronium* spp.
Trillium *Trillium* spp.
Virginia bluebells *Mertensia virginica*
Spanish bluebells *Hyacinthoides hispanica*
Dutchman's breeches *Dicentra cucullaria*
White wood aster, above

Bulbs for Dry Shade

Narcissus spp. ('Jenny,' 'Thalia')
Anemone nemorosa 'Vestal'
Galanthus spp.
Anemone ranunculoides
Tulipa spp.
Cyclamen coum *C. hederifolium* *C. libanotica* (fall) *C. cilicium* (fall)
Crocus speciosus and *C. medius* (fall)
Crocus ochroleucus and *C. speciosus* 'Albus'
Sternbergia lutea
Aconites (*Eranthis hyemalis*)
Fritellaria (*Fritillaria meleagris*; *F. imperialis*)
Glory of the snow
Scilla
Ipheion
Spring Snowflakes (*Leucojum vernalis*)
Colchicum (?)

Other plants

Passion vine *Passiflora lutea*
Carolina Jessamine *Gelsemium sempervirens*
Fringetree *Chionanthus virginicus*

Foliar Effects for Dry Shade

Sea Kale

Honey Bush

Groundcover sedum

Brunnera

Hellebore

Pulmonaria

Euphorbia

Euphorbia

Crambe maritime

Melianthus major 'Antonow's Blue'

Sedum reptans 'Angelina' (lime green) and

S.r. 'Blue Spruce' (dusky blue)

Brunnera macrophylla 'Looking Glass'

(a sport of *B.m.* 'Jack Frost')

Helleborus argutifolius 'Silver Lace'

Pulmonaria 'Milky Way'

Euphorbia myrsinites (blue-gray succulent
leaves; groundcover)

Euphorbia characias subsp. *wulfenii*

(a shrubby spurge; gray-green leaves)

[Valerie Easton. "A Natural Fit." Horticulture (August-September 2008): 34]