



## What to plant in the shade

Shade is a very general term. There are many types of shade:

- Dappled light: occurring under trees, the sunlight is filtered through the canopy
- Part-sun (PS): often found where buildings block sunlight for part of the day
- Damp shade: soil is permanently moist
- Dry shade: occurring under large trees or close to buildings
- Deep shade: no direct sunlight gets in

The following list contains just a few examples of plants that will grow in many of these situations and still provide softness and colour to even the darkest areas of your garden.

### Acanthus mollis (Oyster Plant)

With large glossy green leaves, the Oyster plant has a flower spike almost 2 metres tall in some areas. This plant prefers moist soils but will grow happily in damp shade, dappled light or part-sun.



### Begonia

There are many varieties of Begonia ranging from small ground cover bedding begonias through to tall 3 metre shrubs. Known for their colourful foliage and flowers, most begonias grow well in damp shade, dappled light and part sun.

### Camellia

These large shrubs come in many different shapes and sizes and have showy flowers during Autumn and winter. With over 300 species, there is sure to be one to suit your garden. Camellias grow well in dappled light, part-sun (morning sun preferably) and deep shade

### Clivea

Popular in any shady spot, Clivea generally has glossy dark green strappy leaves with umbels of cream or orange trumpet flowers on taller stems. These flowers are usually followed by deep red, berry like fruits. Extremely drought tolerant, Clivea grows in most shady spots.



### Cyclamen

These tuberous perennials generally have fleshy heart-shaped leaves often with green patterns on their surface. Flowers are borne on bare stalks above the foliage varying from pale pink through to deep burgundy with many exciting variations. Preferring a dryer aspect, Cyclamen grow well in dappled light, part-sun, dry shade or deep shade.

## Helleborus

Hellebores grow particularly well in damp shade, dappled light and part-sun. Their lovely nodding flowers in winter add colour when most other plants are dormant. Hellebores prefer to be kept moist but will tolerate short periods of dryness.



## Hosta

A frost hardy perennial plant, Hosta often have tall stems with white pink or blue trumpet-shaped flowers during spring and summer. Hostas are often grown as a foliage plant and thrive in damp shade dappled light, part-sun and deep shade. Protection from snails will be necessary as they are a particular favourite.

## Liriope

With strappy green or variegated foliage, Liriope grows from 30 - 50 cm depending on variety. Small flower spikes in Summer will range from white, pink through to purples. Liriope grows in dappled light, part-sun, damp shade, deep shade and even dry shade when in pots.

## Loropetalum

Loropetalum is an evergreen shrub that slowly grows to approximately 1.5 m tall and 1 m wide. Small oval leaves range from mid green through to burgundy forms with brilliant pink tips and flowers in Spring. Loropetalum grows well in dappled light or part-sun.

## Mondo Grass

This small clumping grass mostly has dark green strappy foliage ranging from 10 cm to 60 cm tall depending on variety. Although the summer flowers are small, these fuss-free plants thrive in deep shade, part-sun and dappled light and make an excellent border or ground cover plant

## Sansevieria (Mother-in-law's Tongue)

With stiff variegated sword-like foliage, Sansevieria is a striking architectural plant that is extremely tough and drought tolerant. Sansevieria grows well in dappled light, part-sun and dry shade.

## Violets

A Small ground cover with dainty flowers from Winter through Spring, this versatile plant will thrive in damp shade but will also tolerate dappled light and part-sun.

