

# ‘Dark Shade’ into ‘Bright and Beautiful’

## LET THERE BE LIGHT!

*THERE IS LIGHT IN THE SHADE*

A shady spot in your garden offers a wonderful opportunity to grow some excellent plant selections that not only tolerate shade but really prefer it...

### HOSTAS

#### *Great Plant Selection for Your Shade Garden*



Hostas are one of the most common shade loving plants used in this area. With their broad range of colors, a shade garden can be brightened with their vibrant foliage, leaf shapes, textures and delicate blooms. The colors range from shades of green to blue, some with margins of creamy yellow to white, and even chartreuse. Hostas are perennials which pop up in the spring and keep their beautiful rich colored leaves throughout the summer months and into the fall. Their sizes can range from 4 feet tall to as small as 4 inches. All are easily maintained.

A shade garden can be created around trees or nestled around a birdbath or a beautiful sculpture. Hostas are perfect for lining mountain pathways that meander through a heavy canopy of trees. Most produce beautiful blooms which resemble wild orchids in shades of lavender to white.

On a hot summer day, a shade garden is a welcoming spot to relax and reflect and enjoy that cool glass of lemonade. Place a bench under a tree and surround yourself with all your beautiful shade loving plants. Air temperatures in a shade garden can vary as much as 10-15 degrees cooler. There are several varieties of hostas available today.



## **Splashes of Hostas in Assorted Colors and Textures**

### **FERNS: Another Favorite for Shady Areas**

Wood ferns



Ferns are some of the oldest plants in the world. They love shady moist areas where some other plant life may not survive. They are considered mysterious as they do not produce seeds, but form spores on some of the fronds which allow propagation. They can be divided to make new plants.

Ferns make wonderful fillers for shade garden areas and there are many varieties to choose from. One of the most popular is the common Wood fern which can be found growing on mountain slopes.

### **Richly Colored Flowers: Another Favorite for Shady Areas**



Picture from American Meadows

The beautiful Trumpet Vine lights up the shade garden. Trumpet vines can grow on a trellis painted white to help capture light in shade garden. Also buildings painted white will create a good back drop for climbers such as Climbing hydrangeas or Clematis vines.



Don't forget the Morning Glories that sprawled along Grandma's fences. They love shade and are so easy to maintain as they are part of Nature's Wild.

## HEUCHERA PLANTS ARE COLORFUL AND LOVE THE SHADE



**Black Taffeta and Amethyst Mist provide contrast among the green foliage of shade lovers.**

## SOIL - MOISTURE - AIR FLOW

Developing shade gardens may require some planning for assuring success. Shade plants require less water than sun loving plants. A good soil consists of a mixture of sand for drainage and humus or compost which provides nutrients. Too much moisture with too little air flow will allow harmful fungus to form.

It can be helpful to have a landscaping expert prepare the planting beds for successful gardening in shade areas. They can test PH levels of the soil and assist with balancing the soil levels for specific plant selections. Mountain View Landscaping & Design has all the necessary tools and materials to get you headed for a successful gardening experience. There are also designers on staff who can develop a plan to turn a Dull Shade Space into A Bright and Beautiful Cool Respite Area.

Some confusion surrounds the terms full sun, part shade (or part sun) and full shade, so here's a rundown:

**Full sun.** An area that receives four hours or more of direct, mid-day sunlight is considered full sun.

**Part shade.** Areas under trees with high or thin canopies are usually in part shade. They may receive several hours of direct sun in the morning or in late afternoon, and/or dappled sunlight throughout the day.

**Full shade.** The area alongside a north-facing wall or under trees with dense foliage is considered full shade. The area may get some sunshine in the early morning or evening, but is shaded during mid-day.