



# GARDENING IN SHADE

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# SHADE ...

## Shifts or changes

- Daily
- Seasonally
- As trees grow



## Important first steps in shade gardening:

- Evaluate shade patterns over time
- Determine the types of shade present





# TYPES OF SHADE

## ▣ Partial

- Few hours of direct sun – morning, 4 -6 hours
- Half area has sun at any one time
- Best opportunity for flowering plants



Note: 4 – 6 hours of afternoon sun is “full sun”

# TYPES OF SHADE

## ▣ Light

- 2 – 4 hours of direct sun per day
- Bright light
- A quarter to half of area has sun shining
  - ▣ High shifting shade under open pines
  - ▣ Shade under pergolas





# TYPES OF SHADE

## Dappled or Filtered

- Medium shade
  - Less than 2 hours sun
  - Less than one quarter of area with sun
- Sunlight filtering through:
  - Tree canopies
  - Lattice work structures
  - Pergolas covered with vines



# TYPES OF SHADE

- ▣ Full or Deep
  - Constant shade throughout the day
  - No direct sun
  - Can be dark and difficult
- ▣ Difficult shade conditions
  - Shadows between tall buildings
  - Dominated by tree roots
  - Very wet or very dry





# KNOW YOUR SITE

## Soil

pH

sand, silt, clay,  
organic matter  
content

## Light

Shade and sun patterns

## Drainage

wet

dry

drainage patterns

## Landscape features

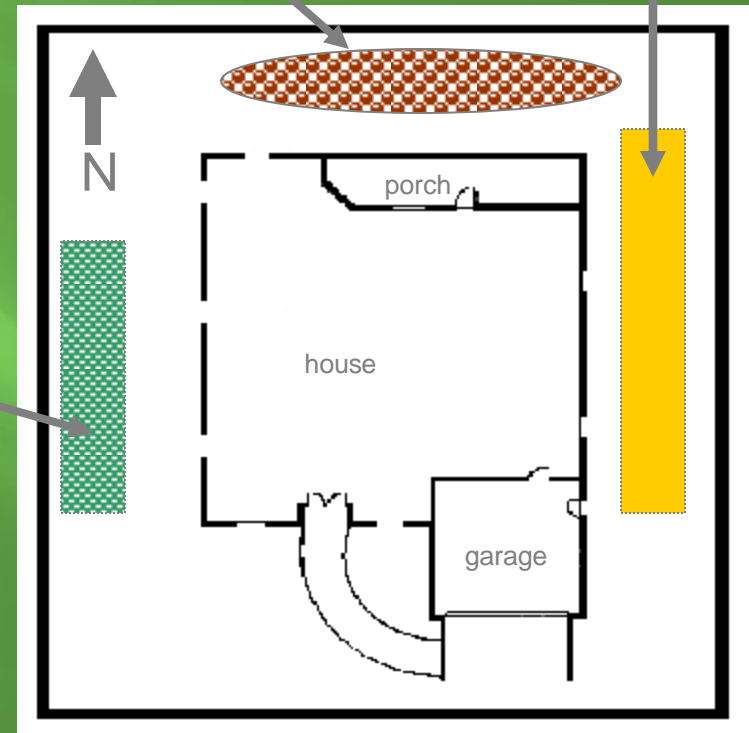
Utilities

Trees

Poor Drainage

Full Sun

Shade



# CREATING SHADE

- ❑ Plant trees – can take years to develop
- ❑ Add a tall fence
- ❑ Build a structure
  - Pergola
  - Arbor
  - Lathe house





# ADVANTAGES OF SHADE

- ▣ Less irrigation
- ▣ Fewer disease and pest problems
- ▣ Fewer weeds
- ▣ Tree canopy provides;
  - Leaves for natural mulch
  - Frost protection in winter
- ▣ Lower cost for air conditioning



# SHADE ISSUES

- ▣ Tree roots makes digging difficult
  - Use smaller plants = smaller planting hole
- ▣ Fertilizer does not compensate for sunlight
  - Sunlight necessary for photosynthesis
- ▣ Lawns in shade need
  - Less fertilizer
  - Less water
  - Mowed higher

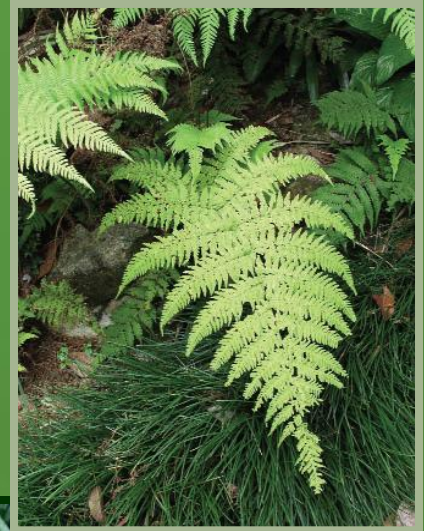




# PLANTING IN SHADE

Plant types good for shady locations:

- Plants with broad leaves
- Foliage plants – light colored variegation
- Flowers with light colored blooms
- Ferns
- Many tropical perennials
- Woodland native plants



# PLANTS FOR SHADE

## Lawn grasses

- Dwarf varieties of St. Augustine
- Empire Zoysia (north Pinellas)

## Understory trees

- Devils walking stick (*Aralia spinosa*)
- Swamp dogwood (*Cornus foemina*)
- Walter's viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*)
- Yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*)





# PLANTS FOR SHADE

## Palms and Cycads

- Bamboo palm (*Chamodorea* spp.)
- Lady Palm (*Rhapis excelsa*)
- Saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*)
- Dwarf blue-stem palmetto (*Sabal minor*)
- Needle palm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*)
- Coontie (*Zamia floridana*)







# PLANTS FOR SHADE

## Shrubs

- Wild coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*)
- Crape jasmine (*Tabernaemontana divaricata*)
- Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)
- Marlberry (*Ardisia escallonioides*)
- Dwarf Walter's viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum* dwarf cvs.)
- Firebush (*Hamelia patens*)
- Gardenia (*Gardenia augusta*)
- Simpson's stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*)
- Yesterday, today & tomorrow (*Brunfelsia* spp.)









# PLANTS FOR SHADE

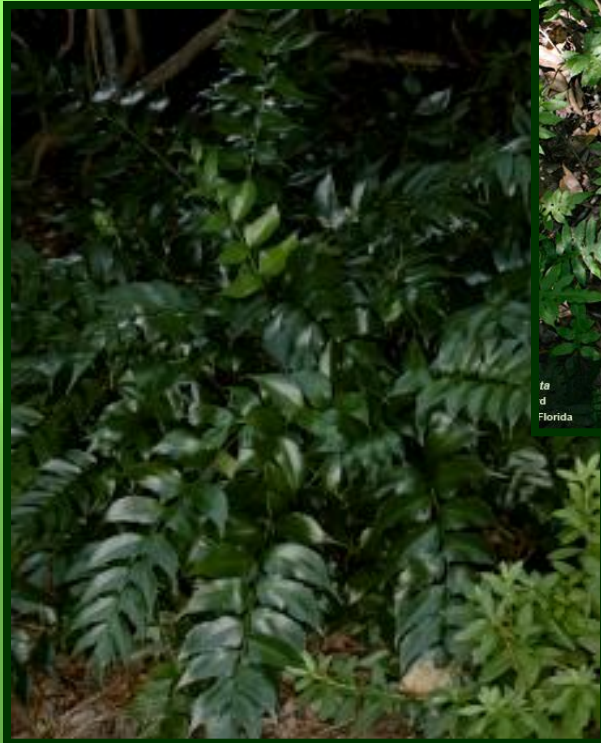
## Ferns

- Autumn fern (*Dryopteris erythrsora*)
- Chain ferns (*Woodwardia* spp.)
- Holly Fern (*Cyrtomium falcatum*)
- Leatherleaf fern (*Rumohra adiantiformis*)
- Sword fern (*Nephrolepis exaltata*) – natives only

## Ground covers

- Asiatic jasmine (*Trachelospermum asiaticum*)
- Lilyturf & Aztec grass (*Liriope* spp.)
- Cast iron plant (*Aspidistra elatior*)
- Mondo grass (*Ophiopogon japonicus*)
- Bromeliads (many species)
- River sage (*Salvia misella*)











# PLANTS FOR SHADE

## Annuals & Perennials

- Begonias (*Begonia* spp.)
- Blue ginger (*Dichorisandra thyrsiflora*)
- Butterfly gingers (*Hedychium* spp.)
- Caladium (*Caladium x hortulanum*) - deciduous
- Coleus (*Solenostemon scutellarioides*)
- Hostas (hybrids like 'SunHosta', 'Elegans' & 'Patriot')
- Impatiens (*Impatiens* spp.)
- Leopard plant (*Farfugium japonicum*)
- Nun's orchid (*Phaius tankervilliae*)
- Peacock ginger (*Kaempferia* spp.) – deciduous





# PLANTS FOR SHADE

## More Annuals & Perennials

- Persian shield (*Strobilanthes dyerianus*)
- Stromanthe (*Stromanthe* 'Triostar')
- Sanchezia (*Sanchezia nobilis*)
- Shell ginger (*Alpinia zerumbet*)
- Toad lilies (*Tricyrtis* spp.)
- Walking irises (*Neomarica* spp.)
- Wishbone flower (*Torenia fournieri*)
- Yellow shrimp plant (*Pachystachys lutea*)





Forest & Kim Starr

















































































# References

Landscaping in Florida Shade

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/EP/EP45700.pdf>

Creating a Tropical Shade Garden

[http://ocextension.ifas.ufl.edu/res\\_hort/pdffiles/Factsheets/013%20Plants%20for%20Tropical%20Shade.pdf](http://ocextension.ifas.ufl.edu/res_hort/pdffiles/Factsheets/013%20Plants%20for%20Tropical%20Shade.pdf)





# QUESTIONS??

