



Virginia Green Industry Council

For Immediate Use

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Electronic Version:

www.viriniagreen.org

Bold Plants Brighten Shady Areas

Don't give up on that shady corner of your garden. The right plants will bring it to life with color, shape, and texture. Consider these shade-loving showstoppers, as recommended by the American Nursery and Landscape Association (ANLA).

- Ferns grow in a variety of different colors and textures. Autumn, holly, and Japanese painted fern are three you might want to try. Some ferns die back in cold weather. Covering with a layer of mulch can help them through winter in all but the harshest climates.
- Hostas are popular choices for shade gardens because of their attractive foliage and range of colors. Create drama with variegated hostas like 'Crusader' or 'Diamond Tiara: Or, consider blue hostas like 'Blue Jay' or 'Serendipity.' If gold is what you're after, 'Gold Drop; with its golden chartreuse leaves is a find.
- Armandii clematis is an evergreen vine that, unlike most clematis, performs well in shade.
- Pulmonarias, or lungworts as they're commonly known, are great plants with intriguing foliage and spring blooming flowers. The hybrid 'Victorian Brooch,' delights the eye with bright pink flowers. An old fashioned variety, 'Mrs. Moon,' boasts pinkish blue flowers and reseeds every season.
- Tricyrtis or toad lily is much prettier than its name implies. Resembling a tropical orchid, this lovely plant gradually spreads into a dazzling sight in a few years.
- Annuals like caladiums and impatiens are spectacular one-season wonders in most climates. Besides being low maintenance, they add a punch of color to otherwise drab areas of the garden. Try them in containers or directly in the ground.
- Lamiums, are appealing ground covers with silvery white leaves edged in green. They produce flowers in the spring. You might want to plant 'White Nancy, "Beacon Silver' or "Pink Pewter' in your garden.
- Pachysandra and variegated vinca, two more ground covers for shade, have dense growth and interesting foliage. Pachysandra has textural qualities as well.
- Columbine, an old fashioned favorite with delicate flowers, has an airy, woodland appearance. It grows well in partial shade.

These ideas help expand your garden's potential. Growing conditions vary widely, so talk with your local nursery or garden center professional for more detailed instructions. They can help you determine how much shade you actually have and which plants will thrive in those areas.

Go to our consumer website for additional gardening information at www.VirginiaGardening.com

The Virginia Green Industry Council is the voice of the horticulture industry in the Commonwealth and is dedicated to enhancing the beauty of the state's environment, the well-being of our citizens, improving our state's economy, and improving the health and wellness for everyone in Virginia. The Council is made up of providers and consumers of horticultural products and services. The Council works to provide public and industry education, environmental guidelines and other information that will keep Virginia green and growing. For more information, visit www.viriniagreen.org. 540-382-0943 FAX: 540-382-2716

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