

Shade Gardening

Tubs and Shrubs West Boldon

Gardening in the shade can be every bit as interesting as in the sun. The secret is to choose plants whose natural habitat is in low light. Woodland plants tend to be quite successful. They tend to do well with plenty of leaf mould and well rotted manure. This provides the plants with a vital reservoir of water and food. Damp shade can provide an environment where certain plants thrive and in which sun lovers dislike. Dry shade under trees can be a bit more tricky. The competition for nutrients and moisture make this the hardest place in which to grow anything. Encouraging them to establish themselves in the first season by adding organic matter and not letting them go short of water is necessary.

PLANTS FOR DAMP SHADE

Ajuga
Alchemilla
Anemone
Astilbe
Dicentra
Digitalis
Euphorbia
Galanthus
Geranium
Geum
Gunnera
Helleborus
Hemerocallis
Heuchera
Hosta
Lamium
Lysimachia
Mahonia Japonica
Mimulus
Polemonium
Primula
Viola

Native Woodland Plants

Bluebell
Foxglove
Male Fern
(Dryopteris filix-mas)
Primrose
(Primula Vulgaris)
Wood Anemone
Wood Violet
(Viola odorata)

Heavy Shade

Aucuba
Buxus
Fatsia
Hendera
Ilex
Skimmia
Vinca

PLANTS FOR DRY SHADE

Digitalis
Dryopteris
Geranium
Lamium
Viola

Vinca minor
"Atropurpurea"

HEDERA HIBERNICA
"SULPHUREA"
Evergreen gold edged climber.

EUONYMUS FORTUNEI
"EMERALD GOLD"
Evergreen Shrub.

Most require good soil preparation and careful watering and feeding for several seasons.

Hot Tip: Where the area is shaded by deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves in winter) try planting early spring flowering bulbs. They will flower before the trees form a leaf canopy and cut out the light. Hardy cyclamen, snowdrops, bluebell, crocus and dwarf narcissus (daffs) are ideal.

For Gardening Advice. www.tubsandshrubs.co.uk Telephone : 0191 519 3363