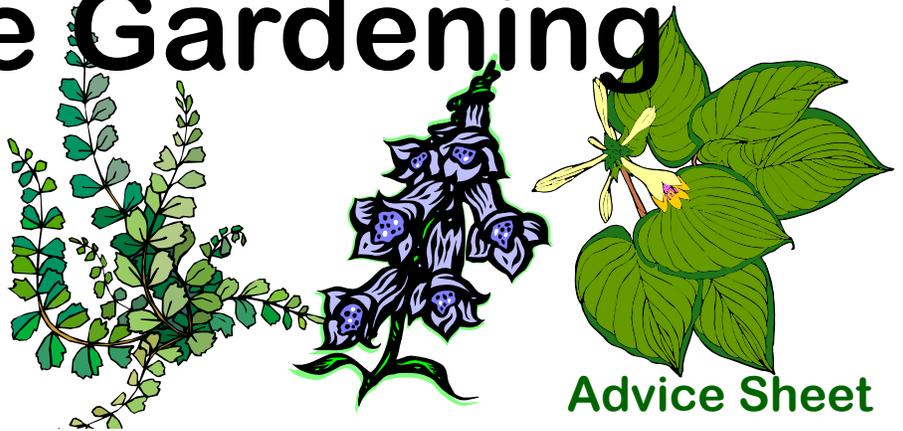


Shade Gardening



Prince Edward County



Advice Sheet

Types of Shade

Shade gardening is very rewarding. Once this kind of gardening is in your soul, you will never wish for a garden without shade.

If you do not have any shade, you can devise quick shading for your plants from board or bamboo fencing.

There are three kinds of shade: full shade, half shade and dappled shade.

Full shade can be shadow, or

the sunless side of a hedge, wall or building. Brick and stone walls retain extra heat, which makes it difficult for some plants to cope.

Half shade is sun for half of the day. Morning shade followed by afternoon sun is hard on shade loving plants. Afternoon shade is more kind.

The most desirable shade is light or

dappled shade from high branching deciduous trees. Trees vary greatly as shade givers. Some are friendly both at the roots and overhead; others are greedy and overbearing. The very best trees for shade gardens are Russian olive, Sunburst locust, birch, Japanese maple, cherry and crabapple trees.

Try to avoid horse chestnut, maple, beech, poplar and Magnolia Grandiflora, as they have greedy roots or a dense canopy which excludes light.

The Do's of Shade Gardening

The composition of the soil will also affect the performance of your plants. Most will do well in a neutral or mildly acidic soil. The ideal composition is compost, peat moss, sand or loamy soil. The ideal proportion is 2 parts organic matter, 1 part sand and 1 part loam.

Maintain your shade garden by applying a well balanced

fertilizer. Mulching is very important in the spring and in the fall.

Within the shelter of the trees, the shade garden needs a structure of shrubs, ferns, vines, groundcover, perennials annuals and biannuals.

Ferns are elegant and indispensable in the shady garden. Along with Pachysandra, they set off the slim white trunks of birches.

Crabapples make charming companions for primroses and violets.

Viburnums, hollies and hydrangeas are shade tolerant rhodos love dappled shade.

For colour, there are green, gold, blue and variegated hostas, as well as Siberian irises. Impatiens in a container can be moved around. Epimediums shine in the shade.

The Do's of Shade Gardening con't

The Nelly Moser clematis and virginia creeper are shade loving vines.

For perfume, include Lily-of-the-Valley and Nicotiana.

Trilliums, Jack-in-the-Pulpit and bleeding hearts are ideal for shade gardens.

The shade garden presents

tremendous opportunities. The shade will keep tadpoles alive in a pond, and prevent the growth of excess algae. A meandering stream or cascade of water are enticing features.

On a hot summer day, the shade garden will be your

cool oasis, so it is the perfect place for a chair or a bench or even a hammock.

Shade gardening is indeed a joy!

-submitted by Pat Burry

For more gardening advice contact us at pecmastergardeners@gmail.com

Or visit our web page at: <https://pecmastergardeners.com>