

What plants will do well in shade? Answers from personal experience of Haliburton County Master Gardeners

Dark Shade:

Hosta's, bergenia, ferns,(I especially love cinnamon ferns), pulmonaria, lingularia, Japanese painted ferns, heart leaf brunnera, rose turtlehead (chelone-this will take dense shade and very acidic soil if kept moist), cimicifuga ramosa(bugbane-will take quite dense shade and very acidic soil. It is very useful in soggy areas), barrenwort, sweet woodruff (quite invasive but perfect where nothing else will grow.

Medium shade

Astilbe, goatsbeard(my favourite as it will tolerate half sun to dense shade) northern lights - azalea series, columbine, ladies mantle, gas plant (dictamnus albus) coral bells, lamium (but likes moisture), forget-me-nots, solomon's seal, foam flower,

Light or Dappled Shade:

Monkshood, husker red penstemon, ladies mantle, every type of day lily but there are often smaller and less blooms. However I had great success with Stella and her offspring in the light shade, graybeard grass (spodiopogon sibiricus) (lovely and big), tradescantia.

Other plants to consider:

Ground cover: periwinkle (vinca minor) and Japanese spurge (pachysandra) and ajuga

Perennials: Jacob's ladder, primroses, wild ginger, bleeding heart, columbine, lily of the valley (invasive)

Climbing: Dutchman's pipe and climbing hydrangea

For colour a few annual in pots: fibrous begonias and impatiens