



**Photo: Cyndi McGill**

# Made In The Shade

Dunwoody Community Garden Workshop  
August 10, 2019

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**DeKalb County Master Gardener Extension Volunteer**



- Shade Basics
- Working With Shade
- Planting Under Trees
- Shade Loving Plants
- Shade Garden Tour



# shade

/SHād/

*noun*

1. comparative darkness and coolness caused by shelter from direct sunlight.  
"sitting in the shade"  
*synonyms:* [shadow](#), shadiness, shadows; [More](#)



# So Who's Throwin' Shade?

- **Trees and Tall Shrubs**
- **Buildings**
- **Fences**

# Full Sun

- 6 hours or more of direct sun
- A must for almost all vegetables, fruits, and turf
- Preferred for many annuals and perennials such as roses

# Part Sun

- 4-6 hours of direct sun, including afternoon sun
- Suitable for **some** vegetables, fruits, and turf
- Can work for many sun-loving annuals and perennials

## Part Shade...

- **Light Shade:** Less than 4 hours of direct sun, or bright, indirect conditions all day (protected by shadows from permanent structures or trees)
- **Filtered Light:** 4-6 hours of direct sun (excluding direct afternoon sun), with dappled light through deciduous trees or open structures
- **Medium Shade:** 2-4 hours of direct sun and/or or all-day dappled light through trees
- **Woodland Shade:** Medium Shade in the summer, Full Sun in the winter

**Remember: Light is cumulative!**

**Deep Shade: No direct sunlight and little dappled light**

# Plants Like What They Like...

They tend to grow spindly and not flower without enough light

They may wilt or scorch in too much sun

...When In Doubt, Watch  
Them!



# Be One With The Shade

- Be flexible!
- Invest in your soil: well drained, plenty of organic matter
- Foot traffic solutions: mulch, gravel, stone

# Be One With The Shade

- Plant selection: foliage vs. blooms
- Pots are your friends!
- Drainage and air circulation
- Leave space between mulch and stems
- Keep crowns clear

# Wranglin' Shade

- Consider “limbing up” trees to increase filtered light
- Reflective paint can boost light in areas shaded by walls

# Dry Shade

- Areas directly under tree canopies
- Trees get first dibs on water and nutrients
- Maples, conifers, and birch are most problematic





**Photo: Cyndi McGill**

# Planting Under Trees: Do's!

- Get a soil test
- Plant trees and understory elements at the same time
- Consider “limbing up” to increase filtered light
- Be realistic: use plants with smaller root balls to avoid trauma to tree roots
- Use ground covers and elevated containers
- Mulch to retain water
- **Carefully** monitor for water and fertilizer needs

# Planting Under Trees: Don'ts!

- **Don't** sever large roots
- **Don't** install raised beds on top of tree roots
- **Don't** add more than 2-4 inches of mulch over the drip area of trees
- **Don't** place mulch or new plants directly against the tree trunks

# **Plants for Shade Trees to Ground Cover**





# **Dogwood**

## ***Cornus florida***

**Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden**



**Kousa Dogwood**  
***Cornus kousa* 'Wolf Eye'**

Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden





# **Carolina Silverbell**

## **Halesia carolina**

**Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden**





# **Serviceberry**

## ***Amelanchier arborea***

**Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden**





# **Camellia japonica**

**Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden**





**Azalea**  
**Rhododenron 'Herbert'**

Photos: Missouri Botanical Garden



**Rhododendron**  
**Rhododendron 'Anna H. Hall'**





**Flame Azalea**  
***Rhododendron calendulaceum***

Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden





# **Mountain Laurel**

## ***Kalmia latifolia***

**Photo: NC State Extension**

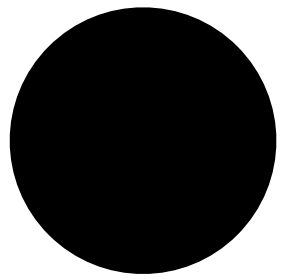


# **Tea Olive**

## ***Osmanthus fragrans***

**Photo: Forest and Kim Starr, NC State Extension**





# **Gold Dust Plant**

## ***Acuba japonica***

Photo: Cyndi McGill



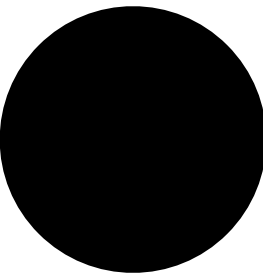


## **Leatherleaf Mahonia**

### **Mahonia bealei**

Photo: Barbara Goodman, NC State Extension





**Japanese Plum Yew**  
***Cephalotaxus harringtonia* 'Yewtopia'**

Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden





## **Fatsia japonica**

Photo: Cyndi McGill



## **Fatsia 'Spider Web'**

Photo: Southern Living





# **Beautyberry**

## ***Callicarpa americana***

Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden



# **Limelight**

## **Hydrangea paniculata**

**Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden**





# **Big Leaf Hydrangea**

## **Hydrangea macrophylla**

Photos: Missouri Botanical Garden







**Oakleaf Hydrangea**  
**Hydrangea quercifolia**

Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden



**Climbing Hydrangea**  
**Hydrangea anomola**

Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden





## **Tree Ivy** ***Fatshedera lizei***

Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden







# Hosts of Hosta!

Less Shade vs. More Shade



**'Fragrant Bouquet'**



**'Blue Mouse Ears'**



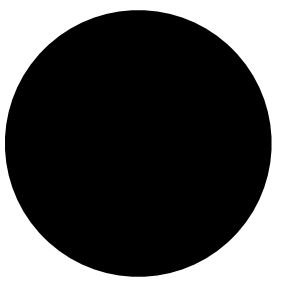
**'Great Expectations'**



**'El Nino'**

Photos: Missouri Botanical Garden



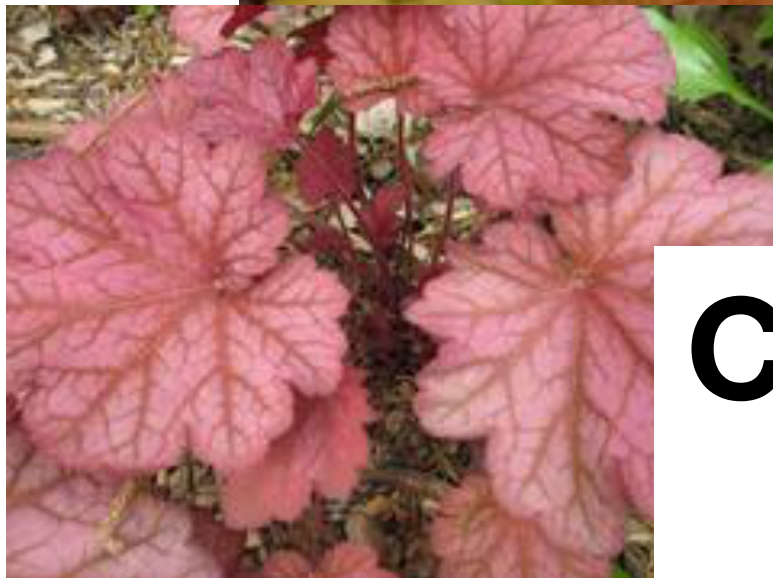


# Lenten Rose

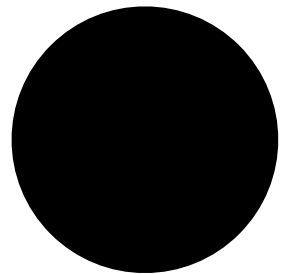
## Helleborus







**Coral Bells**  
**Heuchera**



**Foamflower**  
**Tiarella**

Photos: Missouri Botanical Garden



# Bear's Breeches

## *Acanthus mollis*

Photos: Missouri Botanical Garden







# Leopard Plant

## *Farfugium japonica*

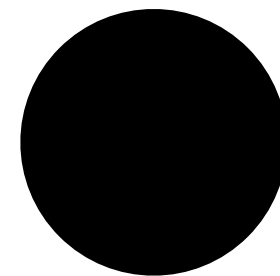


Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden





# **Lungwort**

## **Pulmonaria 'Trevi Fountain'**

Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden





# Woodland Phlox

*Phlox divaricata*

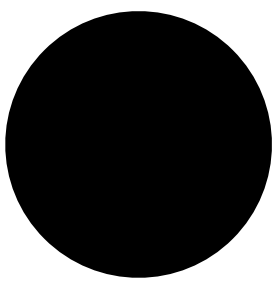


# Bleeding Heart

*Dicentra*

Photos: Missouri Botanical Garden





# Celandine Poppy

## *Stylophorum diphyllum*

Photo: Jay Sturner



# Turtlehead

## *Chelone lyonii*

Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden





# Astilbe

Photos: Missouri Botanical Garden



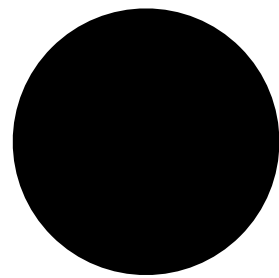
# Solomon's Seal

*Polygonatum biflorum*





# Ferns



Photos: Missouri Botanical Garden

# Shade-Tolerant Groundcovers

- Vinca minor
- Liriope (muscaria vs spicata)
- Creeping Jenny (Lysimachia nummularia)
- Mondo Grass (Ophiopogon planiscapus)
- Japanese Pachysandra (Pachysandra terminalis)





# **Sweet Woodruff**

## ***Galium odoratum***

Photo: Bluestone Perennials



# **Bugleweed**

## **‘Caitlin’s Giant’**

### ***Ajuga reptans***

Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden





 **Deadnettle**  
**Lamium maculatum**

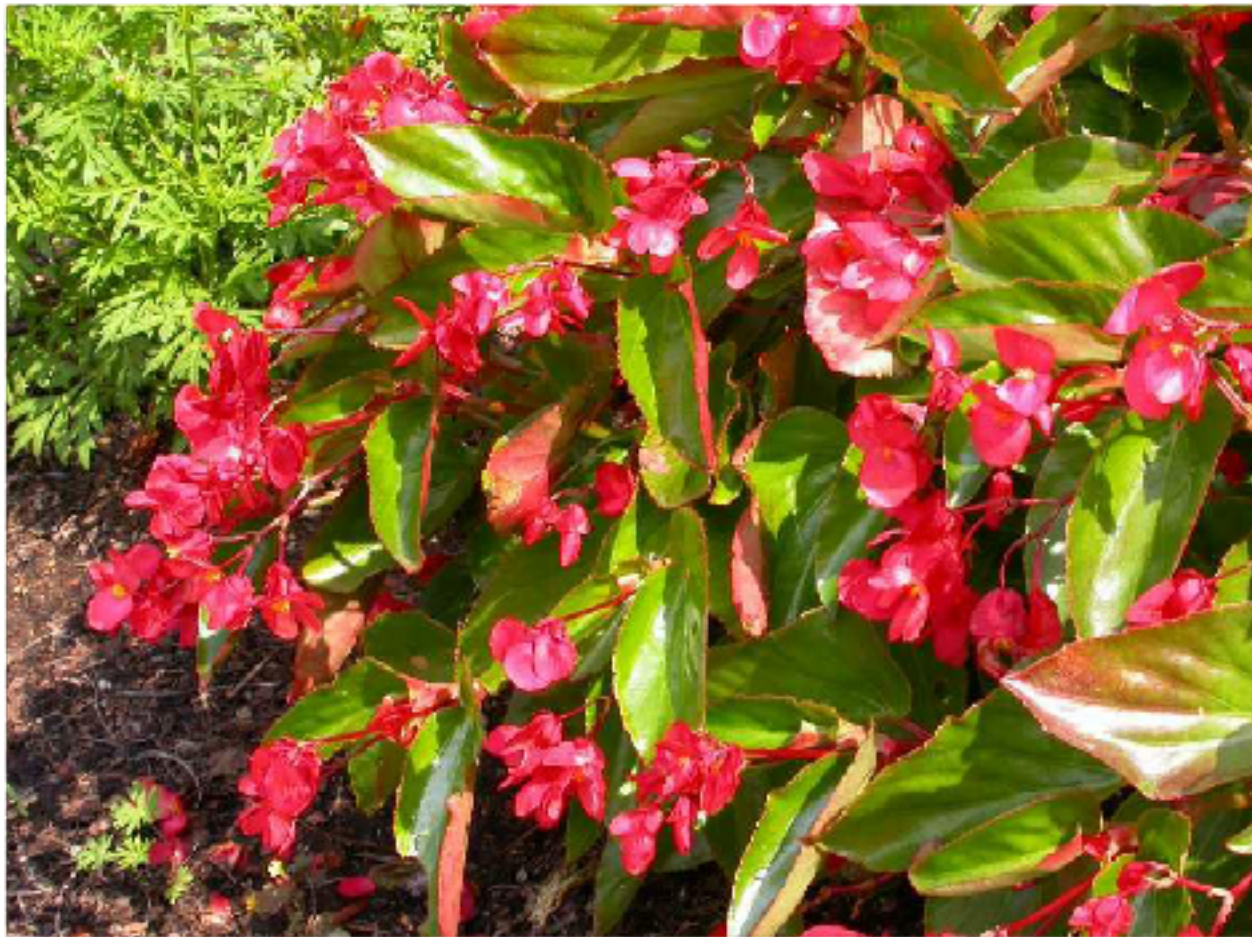
Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden



**Veronica**  
**‘Georgia Blue’**

Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden





**Shade  
Annuals**





# Plant Sources

- Dunwoody Community Garden and Orchard Plant Sales
- Georgia Native Plant Society:  
[GNPS.org](http://GNPS.org)



# **Help is Available!**

**DeKalb County Master Gardener Help Desk**  
**404-298-4080**  
**[mgardener@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:mgardener@dekalbcountyga.gov)**