

# TOP 20 SHADE PERENNIALS

**CAST IRON PLANT** – (*Aspidistra eliator*) Evergreen, 4” x 18” dark green foliage. Has the ability to thrive under the most adverse conditions and low light. One of toughest plants for shady areas in the landscape. Direct sun will burn the foliage. Use in masses and as a contrast to ferns. SHADE

**TEXAS COLUMBINE** – (*Aquilegia* sp.) All four yellow, native Texas Columbines, *A. hickeyana*, *A. longissima*, *A. chrysantha*, *A. chapliney* are excellent choices. They bloom from March to May, growing 1’ – 2’ tall, with bell shaped flowers and long spurs. This plant is an evergreen. SHADE TO PARTIAL SHADE.

**CORAL BELLS** (*Heuchera* sp.) Semi-evergreen foliage resemble maple or ivy. Leaves are green, purple or variegated, depending on the variety. Grow 12” to 18” tall and wide. Flower spikes above foliage and are pink-re to white. Coral bells do best in well prepared, moist and well drained soil. SHADE TO PARTIAL SHADE.

**HOLLY FERN** – (*Cyrtomium falcatum*) This is one of the best for providing evergreen foliage throughout the season. Foliage is thick, shiny and dark green. It needs protection from hot sun & wind. Needs good soil moisture. Grows to 2’ tall. SHADE

**JAPANESE PAINTED FERN** (*Athyrium niponicu* “Pictum”) A 12” growing fern with metallic gray to gray green fronds. This fern shows best color in partial shade in soil that is never wet but never dries out. Fronds emerge in early spring. Will tolerate several hours of sun, very hardy and easy to grow. SHADE TO PARTIAL SHADE.

**TASSEL FERN** – (*Polystichum polyblepharum*) Graceful evergreen fern. Grows 18” to 24”. Fronds have a tropical appearance. Needs moist well drained soil and protections from direct, hot sun. SHADE.

**WOOD FERN** (*Dryopteris normalis*) Prefers well prepared, moist soils with high organic content. They are easily grown n shady areas and will grow 2’-3’ tall and wide. One of the most planted in our area. SHADE

**STRAWBERRY GERANIUM** (*Saxifrga stolonifera*) Great foliage, lime green with silver veins and reddish undersides. One of the finest, unique groundcovers for full shade and dappled shade. Needs excellent drainage. Grows 1’ – 5’ tall. Produces small white flowers above the foliage in early spring. SHADE TO PARTIAL SHADE.

**HOSTA** – (*Hosta* sp.) The best foliage accent. A widely cultivated genus o plants that come originally form China and Japan and perform well in our area, as long as they are planted in deep to moderate shade. Hostas come in many leaf colors and shapes. They lily like flower appears in late summer. Leaf colors range from lime green to dark green and dark blue as well as variegated varieties. SHADE TO PARTIAL SHADE.

**INLAND SEA OATS** – (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) An outstanding ornamental grass for shade. Lush foliage topped by heavy nodding seed heads. Grows 2’ – 3’ tall. The attractive foliage changes from dark green to copper bronze in the fall. Prefers moist well drained soil. SHADE TO PARTIAL SHADE.

**IRIS**(*Iris* sp.) Use this versatile plant in the partial shade to full sun. Louisiana Iris is suited to boggy areas or poorly drained soils, but will work in other areas if well watered. Bearded Iris has been in North Texas forever and this is strong testimony to their resilience. Iris make beautiful cut flowers. Very easy to grow and extremely rewarding. **FULL SUN TO PARTIAL SHADE**

**OXALIS** (*Oxalis* sp.) The traditional pink flowering variety (*Crassipes*) is one of the toughest plants around. It will begin blooming in early spring and continues into the summer. If not watered, it will sometimes go dormant in the hottest months, then return in the fall and early winter. Oxalis is a low growing plant 12"x12" and is excellent for use at the edge of a boarder. **SHADE TO PARTIAL SHADE**

**WOODLAND PHLOX** (*Phlox divaricata*, P x 'Chatahoochie', *P. pilosa*) Blooms early in the season, late February to April and are very showy blue to dark pink in color. *Phlox divaricata* and *Chatahoochie* are evergreen. All are low growing, 10" x 12" and compact. Prefers well drained soil that is prepared with plenty of organic matter. **SHADE TO FULL SUN**

**PIGEONBERRY**-(*Rivina humilis*) An excellent groundcover and low tier grower for the front of a boarder. Grows in full to partial shade, 10" – 12" tall. Flowers are light pink and accompanied by bright red berries, which occur on the plant from April to frost. Birds love this plant. **FULL TO PARTIAL SHADE**

**RAIN LILY**-(*Zephyranthes* sp.) Outstanding evergreen low growing plant that blooms in the fall. Blooms in response to rain and often will continue to flower several weeks after a rain. Grows 10"-12" tall and flowers are white, pink, or yellow depending on variety. **PARTIAL SHADE**

**LYER LEAF SAGE**-(*Salvia Lyrata*) Prefers shade to partial shade and is a good substitute for *Ajuga*. Foliage is green with purple veins and jagged, wavy edges. Flowers are light blue and are on stalks above the foliage in early spring, Grows 12" – 18" tall and is an aggressive groundcover. Grows in most any soil. **SHADE TO PARTIAL SHADE**

**TURK'S CAP**-(*Malvaviscus arboreus* v. *drummondii*) Another excellent shade performer, *Turks's Cap* fill the bill. Will also do well in sunny spots. From May through frost, bright red flowers accent the heavily textured light green leaves of the plant. Generally grows 3' to 4'. Hummingbirds and butterflies love this plant. Grows in well drained soil. **SHADE TO PARTIAL SHADE**

**WILD PETUNIA**-(*Ruellia* sp.) This is the perfect plant for those troublesome shady areas where no other flowering plant will grow. *R. Katie's dwarf*, *R. nudiflora*, *R. malacosperma*, *R. carolinesis*. **SHADE TO FULL SUN.**

**WOOD VIOLET** – (*Viola* sp.) A great woodland groundcover. Use Wood Violets in areas of heavy shade where you want to encourage naturalizing/spreading plantings. They will bloom in early spring, purple, lavender, or white, for six t eight weeks. Variegated varieties are also available. **SHADE TO PARTIAL SHADE**

**ZEXMENIA** – (*Zexmenia hispida*) A small, shrubby perennial that is covered with dainty, golden yellow daisies from April until August. *Zexemenia* grows 24" – 30" tall and blooms well in the sun or heavy shade. A tough, drought tolerant plant. **FULL SHADE TO FULL SUN**