

Plants For Shady Gardens

Shady areas of your garden can be a bit of a challenge but they can be gorgeous, colourful focal spots with the right plants. Use these plants for shady container gardens and hanging baskets, too. We've noted which plants are upright (for the centre your basket or back of your garden), mounding (for the middle of your garden or basket) and trailing (for the edges).

ASPARAGUS FERN—Gives a light, airy look for your patio planters and hanging baskets. Choose this instead of ivy. Fresh, bright-green foliage arches out in lush sprays and trails down the sides of containers. Poor frost tolerance. Full to partial shade. Keep plants moist. *Trailing*

BALSAM—12" high. Mixed colours. Perfect plant for the gardener who wants something different that does not require a lot of extra work. Related to impatiens and easy to grow. Old-fashioned flower is popular in Europe. Rose-like flowers are borne between its leaves on tall, sturdy stalks from June until frost. Poor frost tolerance. Water regularly to keep moist. Likes warmth. Partial shade to full shade. *Upright. Not suitable for hanging baskets.*

FIBROUS BEGONIA—8" high. Pink, red, white and mixed. Absolutely outstanding for fully shaded areas. Shade or sun. *Upright. Not suitable for hanging baskets.*

TUBEROUS BEGONIA—Pink, red, yellow, orange, apricot, appleblossom, white and salmon. Must be planted with the points of the leaves facing out where you want the flowers since the flowers only face the way the leaves point. Shade - will burn in the sun. *Upright*

TRAILING BEGONIAS—Great for baskets and planters in partial shade. Blooms continuously even in hot weather. A cascade of 3 to 4" double and semi-double flowers overflow the pot. One of Mom's favourite plants. White, salmon pink, orange and apricot. *Trailing*

BROWALLIA—Cascading. White or blue. 10-12" plants. Not often found in northern gardens because not many people know about it. Grows into a striking, rounded bush, liberally sprinkled with bluebell-like flowers 1.25" across that cascade evenly from all sides. Keep soil moist but dislikes being waterlogged. Delay planting until quite warm; not at all frost-hardy. Sun or shade. *Mounding and trailing*

COLEUS—Foliage only (no flower) in red, orange and rust shades. 12-14" high.

Varieties grown from seed are as follows.

Jade Wizard - green and ivory

Jade Pastel - red, salmon and green

Jade Rose

Jade Velvet Red - deep red

Rainbow Mix - a bushy 14-16" coleus with red, yellow, pink and copper foliage

Kong Rose - it's big, it's bold and it's bright - huge-leaved Kong is a terrific accent plant for large containers. The well-branched, mounded, 18-22" tall plants also create beautiful mass plantings for landscapers. Performs best and shows more intense colour outdoors in full shade.

Some coleus are grown from cuttings and tend to be more vigorous.

Henna

Saturn

Mint Mocha

Florida Sunsplash

Electric Lime

Freckles

Upright and mounding. Not suitable for hanging baskets.

DRACAENA—Tall, spiky greenery *Upright. Only suitable for container gardens.*

DUSTY MILLAR—A favourite accent; blue grey foliage. *Upright. Only suitable for gardens.*

FUSCHIA—Trailing varieties are great in hanging baskets and containers. There are also upright ones. Partial shade. *Upright and trailing varieties*

IMPATIENS—Still one of the best for colour and low maintenance. Need 2-3 hours of sun sometime during the day (but never during the heat of the day from 10am to 4pm) otherwise grow very leggy in too much shade. Lots of colours and sizes. Have three series grown from seed.

Elfins—shortest

Accents—medium height and best one for containers - great in the garden too

Blitz—tall (sometimes to 3' depending on conditions). Too tall for containers and hanging baskets.

Fusion Radiance—Peachy coloured. Same as below otherwise. Too tall for containers and hanging baskets.

Fusion Glow—Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Allow to dry between waterings and fertilize every 2 weeks. 16" tall and 12" apart. Part sun and part shade. Yellow. Too tall for containers and hanging baskets.

Upright and mounding varieties

DOUBLE IMPATIENS—Pretty flowers that resemble rose buds. No hot afternoon sun. Come in a multitude of colours mostly red, white, orange and shades of pink and purple. *Upright and mounding varieties*

GERMAN IVY—Very aggressive. Keep trimmed back if used in baskets or containers with other plants. Very shiny green foliage and very nice. *Trailing*

LOBELIA—Upright and trailing varieties. Blue, rose, white and mixed come from seed. More likely to die in the heat of summer than cutting lobelia. Do NOT let it dry out. Ones from cuttings (sold in 4" pots) are more tolerant of drought. Only in blue and white. Lobelias from seed come 4 per box. Partial shade. *Trailing*

MIMULUS—Two things that place mimulus heads above other annuals—they thrive in almost any spot in the garden and their charming, tubular flowers produce some of the richest colours in the garden. Full shade to full sun. Mass plantings, as a border, in patio pots, window boxes, planters, hanging baskets. Will grow in low-lying wet areas. Keeping moist is critical. Hate dry soil. *Upright and mounding varieties*

NASTURTIUM—Grow quickly. Do well in poor soil. Need little maintenance other than watering. Moderately frost tolerant. Full sun to light shade. Water only when soil is dry. Mixed colours. *Upright and trailing*

NEMESIA—Open faced flowers resemble miniature orchids. Easy to grow. Blooms nonstop from June to frost. Poor frost tolerance. Partial shade to full sun. Blue or white. Do not dry out. Grows 8" high. *Upright and mounding varieties. Not suitable for hanging baskets.*

NICOTINE—Tall white nicotine variety is 36" high and highly fragrant. Saratoga Series is shorter (10-12" high). Lime, rose, appleblossom, white and red. Perfume Series - 16-20" high - flowers are highly scented at night. Come in blue and mix. Partial shade to full sun. Water frequently. *Upright. Not suitable for hanging baskets.*

THUNBERGIA—Prettiest flowering annual vine. Grow in hanging baskets and garden pots. Blooms as it climbs with open flowers and heart shaped leaves all the way up the stem. Poor frost tolerance Part shade to part sun. Warm, sheltered spot is great. Keep soil wet. Fertilize 2x/week. Fast growing. *Climbing or trailing*

TORENIA—Something different for shady areas (or just early morning sun). Profusion of open-faced flowers that resemble small gloxinias. Poor frost tolerance. Water only when dry. *Upright and mounding*