



Gardeners Helping Gardeners Succeed

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PERENNIAL PLANTS FOR SHADY GARDENS

The Perennial Plant Association (PPA) honors plants that prove hardy, adaptable and easy to grow. Deer resistance is noted with a 'D'

Anemone

Anemone sylvestris flowers in spring and is native to meadows and dry deciduous woodlands. It spreads rapidly by root suckers and stolons. Most of the spring bloomers are white with yellow centers. *Anemone tomentosa* flowers in the fall with soft pink single, cup-shaped flowers that float above attractive deep green foliage. There are double-flowered varieties on the market today. *Honorine Jobert* (a fall bloomer) was selected as PPA Plant of the Year for 2016

Astilbe

Astilbe appreciates constant moisture and lots of humus. Demanding in Nevada's environment, but incredibly lovely in bloom. *Astilbe* flowers can be recognized by their tall, fluffy plumes that tower above frilly, fern-like foliage. The flower colors come in shades of reds, pinks, and white. **Sprite** was selected as the PPA Plant of the Year for 1994.

Balloon Flower (Platycodon)

Cultivars are in several shades of blue, also white and pink. Balloon flower is a clump-forming perennial that is so named because its flower buds puff up like balloons before bursting open into outward-to-upward-facing, bell-shaped flowers.

Bleeding Heart (Dicentra)

Dicentra exima is closer in appearance to its wild ancestors. The delicately cut foliage is lovely and fern-like. *Dicentra spectabilis* is named for its heart-shaped blossoms that dangle from slender, arching stems. Delicate, fernlike foliage creates a perfect backdrop for the flowers.

Brunnera They have hairy leaves and sprays of blue flowers in spring. Numerous cultivars are available which are valued as groundcover in dappled shade. The PPA picked *Jack Frost* as Perennial of the Year for 2012

Campanula The campanulas are too often overlooked and have much to offer the shade garden. They include old favorites and less familiar forms as well. *Campanula* is a diverse genus with varying attributes, but most are noted for their flowers, which can be tubular, bell, star, cup or saucer shaped. Flower color varies widely. Plants range from low mat-forming species to dwarf perennials and herbaceous species

Carpet Bugle (Ajuga) This is a group of plants grown primarily for their interesting foliage (varying from deep Burgundy to pink or gold variegation). They can be walked on and mown. They have an attractive spike flower in blue or sometimes pink.

Columbine (Aquilegia)

Columbine is one of the finest plants of the west. They come in a rainbow of hues, color combinations, and heights from 6 inches to 4 feet. The foliage is a beautiful blue-green worthy of recognition as well. Columbine blooms from mid-spring to early summer. Look for exceptional features like pest-resistance, unusual colors, double petals, varying spur lengths, and upward-facing blossoms.

Coral Bells (Heuchera)

This is one shade plant with a remarkably long bloom time. In addition it is also being cultivated for remarkable variation in the color and appearance of its foliage.

Delphinium Perennial Larkspur plants make exceptional cut flowers and will attract hummingbirds. Taller varieties such as Giant Pacific Hybrids will require staking while shorter types will be fine without any additional help. Delphiniums come in a variety of colors from white to blue shades to violet.

Dianthus Common names for dianthus include carnation, pinks and sweet william.

Most dianthus have pink, red, or white flowers with notched petals. Sweet Williams are biennial or short-lived perennials covered with bicolor flowers in late spring. Pinks are low-growing dianthus suitable for rock gardens. Carnations are taller and good for bouquets but tend to be less hardy than other dianthus.

Globe Flower (Trollius)

A clump-forming perennial of the buttercup family that features a late spring to early summer bloom of globular lemon-yellow to golden flowers. Likes moisture.

Hosta No shade garden could possibly be complete without the fabulous foliage of Hosta. There are literally thousands of varieties of Hosta. There are miniatures and large specimens from shades of blue and green to green/white and green/gold variegation. To be sure of satisfaction, buy container specimens in full leaf.

Lenten Rose (Hellebore) The vigorous and hardy Lenten Rose blooms in the winter and early spring garden before other plants awaken. Highly deer resistant. The larger, more exuberantly colored varieties or double forms are a great addition to the shady border. It is an evergreen perennial.

Lady's Mantle (Alchemilla)

Prized for its lime green foliage more than it's rather insignificant yellow flower.

Ligularia

This perennial proves that shade plants can be spectacular and showy with huge yellow flower spikes and interesting foliage too. A plant of substantial size. Enjoys moisture.

Monk's Hood (Aconitum)

This shade plant produces fine stalks of showy flowers. Bear in mind all parts of this plant are poisonous. Typically, the flowers are a rich gentian blue.

Tiarella

A plant this lovely deserves a place in every shade garden. Not so delicate as its appearance would imply. Many varieties offer striking foliage as well. Tiarella is an early spring bloomer.