



22nd April 2024

British Garden Centres' guide to top shade-loving plants to enhance your garden

Got a shady spot in your garden and worried you can't grow anything? Fear not, with the right selection of plants, you can transform these dark nooks and crannies into a colourful and thriving area. The team at British Garden Centres delve into some of the best plant options that thrive in shady conditions, adding both beauty and tranquillity to your outdoor space.

Ferns

Ferns are ideal plants for shaded environments due to their ability to thrive in low-light conditions, making them well-suited for garden areas that get limited sunlight. Ferns originated in woodland or densely forested areas where little sunlight could penetrate. They are also great at retaining moisture, which is beneficial in shaded areas and can also tolerate cooler temperatures well. And the fact that they're perennials means you can enjoy their beauty in your garden for years, with minimal fussing over their care.

Hostas

Hostas are ideal for shaded environments due to their remarkable adaptability and origination from woodlands. Thriving in low-light conditions, these versatile plants bring vibrant foliage to areas with limited sunlight. With a wide range of foliage and leaves in different colours, textures, and sizes, hostas add visual interest to shady spots, brightening them with shades of green, blue, yellow, or variegated patterns. Once established, hostas are low-maintenance perennials that require minimal upkeep, making them ideal for all shady gardens.

Foxglove

Foxgloves or digitalis are hardy, shade-tolerant perennials that are the perfect shape to attract garden bumblebees and carder bees. The tall, brightly coloured statuesque stems are a border favourite, flowering repeatedly from May to July, and look great in pots. This cottage garden classic is happy in darker areas of your garden and the flowers are extremely popular with pollinators. Choose foxglove varieties that are well-suited for shade, such as *Digitalis purpurea* or *Digitalis grandiflora*. These varieties are more tolerant of lower light conditions.



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Dicentra

Dicentra, commonly known as bleeding heart, is a beautiful perennial ideal for shady gardens, with its heart-shaped flowers. It thrives in partial to full shade and rich, well-draining soil that benefits from consistent moisture, making it perfect for darker corners of the garden. A real showstopper for shady spots, dicentra produces dozens of wands of perfect flowers over several weeks beginning in May and lasting into June. As well as borders, it can also be used in outdoor pots and containers, making it a versatile choice for smaller gardens with darker corners.

Impatiens

Impatiens or busy lizzies are a fantastic choice for shady gardens, bringing vibrant colour to areas with limited sunlight. These annual flowers thrive in partial to full shade, making them ideal for under trees or alongside walls and fences where direct sunlight may be limited. With their wide range of colours and varieties, there's a suitable option for every shady corner. Busy Lizzies love being in well-draining soil enriched with organic matter and keep them consistently watered to ensure they flourish throughout the growing season. Their constant flowers and low-maintenance nature make them a popular choice for adding a burst of colour to shady garden spaces.

Begonia

Whether you're searching for bedding plants to adorn shaded spots or cascading varieties to embellish your hanging baskets and containers in a dark corner, begonias fit the bill. Renowned for their cheerful colours, they effortlessly brighten up shaded areas of the garden. Available in radiant hues of red and orange, these blooms will stand out against the shady areas, creating a captivating visual contrast. With such a diverse selection available at British Garden Centres, we're confident you'll discover the perfect begonia to illuminate your garden.

Aquilegia

Aquilegia, also known as columbine or granny's bonnet, is a great perennial for shady gardens. With its distinctive bell-shaped flowers and delicate foliage, aquilegia thrives in partial to full shade and comes in shades of blue, purple, pink, white, and yellow, making them a versatile choice for adding pops of colour to shaded garden beds. With proper care, including moist, well-draining soil enriched with organic matter and protection from direct sunlight, aquilegia will flourish and brighten up your space, attracting pollinators throughout the garden.



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Julian Palphramand, Plant Buyer at British Garden Centres said: " By embracing the beauty of shade-loving plants in your garden you can transform dim corners into vibrant areas and unlock the full potential of every inch of your outdoor space. Shady plants add depth, dimension, and colour to your garden, turning even the most challenging areas into an area to enjoy. By incorporating these plants into your garden, you not only create an exciting display but also foster biodiversity, providing vital habitat for wildlife."

ENDS

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Notes to Editors:

About the business:

British Garden Centres (BGC) is the UK's largest family-owned garden centre group with 62 centres around the country. The group is owned and led by The Stubbs family, who also own and operate Woodthorpe Leisure Park in Lincolnshire.

BGC was launched in 1987 with the opening of Woodthorpe Garden Centre by brothers Charles and Robert Stubbs. Since 2018 it has expanded rapidly with the acquisition of 50 garden centres allowing it to grow from its heartland to the business it is now with 62 garden centres spread from Carmarthen to Ramsgate, Wimborne to East Durham. The group has a team of 2,700 colleagues working across the garden centres, restaurants, 2 growing nurseries, 4 distribution centres, Woodthorpe Leisure Park, and Woody's Restaurant & Bar.

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