



Top 20 Perennials for Shade

Ajuga

Ajuga reptans **Color:** Blue **Blooms:** Spring **Light:** Part Shade **Height:** 4-6" **Soil:** Moist Well Drained
 Varied group of ground covers with glossy, green to deep bronze foliage and violet-blue flowers in late spring. Many varieties sport varying leaf sizes and shapes. Grows in ground hugging rosettes, and spreads quickly by stolons. Best in morning light with afternoon shade from the hottest reflected heat.

Aspidistra

Aspidistra elatior **Color:** N/A **Blooms:** N/A **Light:** Shade / Part **Height:** 24-36" **Soil:** Well Drained
 This classic, tough houseplant is also dynamic for its bold evergreen texture when used in the garden. Perfect for a shady background to ferns and other perennials, it only needs a spring trim up to continue to be a low maintenance border or container specimen.

Candytuft

Iberis sempervirens **Color:** White **Blooms:** Spring **Light:** Shade **Height:** 6-12" **Soil:** Soil: Well Drained
 A hardy, low-growing, evergreen plant that is covered with small white flowers February to April. Tough, and works well in shade to part sun. Good in planters, borders, foundation plantings, and rock gardens.

Columbine

Aquilegia spp. **Color:** Yellow/Red **Blooms:** Spring **Light:** Shade **Height:** 12"-36" **Soil:** Moist Well Drained
 Native. Shade loving perennial blooms in May. Beautiful yellow blossoms with a tropical look. Looks great planted with ferns or Turk's Cap. Evergreen foliage has a blue green tint. Columbines will cross pollinate and are good re-seeders. Plant several for a nice grouping.

Coral Bells

Heuchera sanguinea **Color:** White/Pink **Blooms:** Spring **Light:** Shade **Height:** 12"-18" **Soil:** Moist Well Drained
 Blooms in late spring with multitudes of tubular coral flowers carried on tall spikes above the foliage. Evergreen plant makes a low neat mound of dark green foliage. Attractive foliage makes a good border plant even when not in bloom. Also fine in rock gardens.

Frogfruit

Phyla nodiflora **Color:** White **Blooms:** Summer **Light:** Shade / Part **Height:** 3-6" **Soil:** Well Drained
 Native. Ground hugging, Texas perennial that spreads to create a sea of tiny, pretty white blooms in summer. Great ground cover choice for sunny areas, found in its native habitat around ponds and lakes. Drought tolerant and a butterfly larval food plant.

Hellebore, Lenten Rose

Helleborus orientalis **Color:** Varies **Blooms:** Winter **Light:** Shade/Part **Height:** 8"-15" **Soil:** Well Drained
 Attractive leathery foliage on a compact well behaved plant. Graceful nodding flowers of white to pink to purple in early to mid spring. Long-lived plants for sheltered, moist rockeries and well drained woody beds.

Hosta

Hosta spp. **Color:** Varies **Blooms:** Summer **Light:** Shade / Part **Height:** Varies **Soil:** Moist Well Drained
 The 'Queen of the Shade', the Hostas are grown for beautiful variations in leaf color and large, clumping form, with the bonus on many cultivars of fragrant tubular spikes of flowers appearing mid-summer, ranging from white to blue to lavender. All appreciate evenly moist soil and full to partial shade, with protection from snails and slugs.

Inland Sea Oats

Chasmanthium latifolium **Color:** N/A **Blooms:** N/A **Light:** Shade / Part **Height:** 36-48" **Soil:** Moist Well Drained
 Native. Inland sea oats is a clumping ornamental grass treasured for its oat-like drooping flowers and rich, bamboo-like foliage. One of the few true grasses that grows in dry shade. Clumps spread slowly by rhizomes and by seed, if allowed.

Japanese Holly Fern

Cyrtomium falcatum **Color:** N/A **Blooms:** N/A **Light:** Shade/Part **Height:** 24" **Soil:** Moist Well Drained
 Semi-evergreen fern with thick shiny fronds. Undersides of fronds are covered with spores. Plant in shady areas with fertile soil. In most winters remains evergreen. Protected from direct sun or hot summer winds, in is slightly drought tolerant. Large mature clumps may be divided.

Speak with a Garden Advisor for questions and availability.

Leopard Plant

Farfugium japonica **Color:** Yellow **Blooms:** Fall **Light:** Shade **Height:** 18"-24" **Soil:** Moist Well Drained
Large, glossy-green circular leaves splashed with yellow make for a dramatic textural change in shade gardens. Autumn brings yellow daisy-like flowers on tall spikes. A great plant for damp, shady places, it is drought tolerant and typically evergreen.

Penstemon 'Gulf Coast' or 'Brazos'

Penstemon tenuis **Color:** Pink **Blooms:** Early Spring **Light:** Shade/Part **Height:** 18" **Soil:** Moist Well Drained
Native. Blooms pale pink in spring and sometimes in fall, attracting bees. Will perform well in poorly drained soil as well as sandy loam. Semi-evergreen in winter.

Sage, Lyre Leaf

Salvia lyrata **Color:** Lavender **Blooms:** Early Spring **Light:** Shade/Part **Height:** 8"-12" **Soil:** Well Drained
Native. Lyre Leaf sage reaches 8" when in bloom in spring, otherwise it is a ground hugging perennial. Blooms are light lavender atop green and purple foliage. Can be used as a ground cover and will grow under trees. Will withstand light foot traffic.

Sedges

Color: N/A **Blooms:** Summer **Light:** Shade / Part **Height:** varies **Soil:** Well Drained
Carex spp.

Pretty group of grassy foliage plants including several Texas natives with thin leaves, many edged in white or other colors. Tough, great choices for grass alternative in shade, foliage contrasts in beds, and softening in containers. Most handle drought to wetness with ease. Versatile, and excellent used as a border edging in sun to shade.

Spiderwort

Tradescantia spp. **Color:** Varies **Blooms:** Spring **Light:** Shade/Part **Height:** 12"-18" **Soil:** Well Drained
Native. Beautiful blue-green foliage and bright purple, white, pink or blue flowers in spring and summer if watered well. Can be used in shade or sun. May go dormant in summer.

Turk's Cap

Color: Red **Blooms:** Fall **Light:** Sun/Shade **Height:** 2'-4' **Soil:** Well Drained
Malvaviscus arboreus drummondii

Native. Bright green foliage great for lighting up shady areas. Red blooms from May to November. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Will take any soil and any light.

Umbrella Plant

Color: N/A **Blooms:** N/A **Light:** Shade / Part **Height:** 36-48" **Soil:** Moist Well Drained
Cyperus alternifolius

Graceful palm-like leaves, especially if it's grown in partial shade. Can be grown where drainage is poor, or even in a garden pond up to 6 inches deep. Great as an accent plant for pots, ponds and perennial beds. Mulch heavily or sink in a pond in winter for protection.

Violet, Native Wood

Viola missouriensis **Color:** Violet **Blooms:** **Light:** Shade **Height:** 2"-6" **Soil:** Moist Well Drained
Native. Beautiful creamy violet blooms appear in early spring and continue through spring. Dark green leaves make great ground cover under trees. Propagate by division and by re-seeding.

Wood Fern

Thelypteris kunthii **Color:** N/A **Blooms:** N/A **Light:** Shade/Part **Height:** 36" **Soil:** Well Drained Soil
Native. Vigorous, true perennial Texas fern for shaded areas that can also tolerate morning sun quite well. Plant in loose, well-drained soil, and will spread by underground rhizomes to become a tough groundcover. Drought tolerant once established, it is good for use as a backdrop for shorter plants or a good summer ground cover for spring bulbs.

Wood Sorrel, Pink or White

Oxalis crassipes **Color:** Pink/White **Blooms:** Summer **Light:** Shade/Part **Height:** 10"-12" **Soil:** Moist Well Drained
Native. Old favorite low-growing edging plant, forming a low mound. Dainty pink or white flowers bloom all spring and summer. Clover-like leaves emanating from a cluster of bulbs. Leaves are even attractive in themselves. Blooms in sun or light shade. Very dependable.

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