

Shade in the garden is often considered a problem, but it should be looked on as a great opportunity to grow some really interesting plants - who wants a Mediterranean garden anyway? This leaflet is far from exhaustive and is only meant as a guide, the plants listed should be investigated further with your specific conditions in mind. The leaflet covers a range of plants, from those that thrive in deep shade to those that will tolerate light or dappled shade. All the plants will perform well and will provide excellent colour, fragrance or cover.

In this leaflet we concentrate on shrubs, but ferns, climbers and herbaceous perennials can perform well too. Very dark corners can be considerably brightened by the addition of decorative features such as statuary, mirrors, water features or other garden ornaments.

For further advice, please ask one of our sales team for there expert opinion.



*Aucuba japonica 'Spotted Laurel'*: A tough, adaptable, glossy-leaved shrub that will withstand much abuse and require little attention. The large leaves are often splashed with yellow. Height 2-3m. Evergreen.

*Camellia japonica/williamsii*. A classic, glossy, evergreen shrub with large flowers in late winter and early spring. Colours range from white to deep red and flowers can be single, double or more. Needs ericaceous soil. Height 2-4m



*Chaenomeles sp 'Flowering Quince'*: This spiky, deciduous shrub bears bold flowers in spring and large yellow fruit in autumn. They can be wall trained or used as hedging and are tough and spiky enough to provide a solid, but attractive barrier. Height 1-3m

*Cotoneaster sp.* A varied genus with species ranging from small leaved, evergreen groundcover to tall arching specimens or wall trained shrubs. Abundant red berries are produced in autumn and are a feast for the eyes as well as the birds. Sizes vary.



*Daphne odora*. A slow growing, evergreen shrub with heady scented purple to white flowers from winter to spring. Height 1.5m

*Elaeagnus x ebbingei*. A dense shrub with tough, scaly leaves and tiny but, deliciously fragrant flowers in autumn. The evergreen leaves can be silvery green or variegated. Height 4m



*Fatsia japonica*. A big shrub with large, exotic, waxy leaves and balls of white flowers that turn to black berries in autumn. Their striking, evergreen leaves and tolerance of adverse conditions make *Fatsia* a popular plant, but they can grow to be monsters Height 2-4m

*Garrya elliptica*. An arching evergreen shrub with beautiful long catkins and wavy evergreen leaves. The catkins are borne from mid winter to early spring and make a beautiful sight on a cold, wet day. Height 4m



*Hamamelis* sp, '*Witch Hazel*'. A small deciduous tree with beautiful autumn colour and stunning wispy clusters of delicately scented flowers in winter. This slow growing, woodland plant is sadly under-used. Height 2-4m

*Hydrangea* sp. This classic shrub has many variations from the pom pom heads of *H. macrophylla* to the elegant cones of *H. paniculata*. All do well in shade, but for a change look for the velvety leaves and exotic purple flowers of *H. aspera* (pictured).



*Lonicera nitida*. A dense evergreen shrub with small leaves that can be clipped to shape or left to grow to its natural, informal shape. This is a tough versatile plant, but shows none of the flower associated with its genus... Height 3-4m



... unlike *Lonicera fragrantissima*/*purpusii* which is a loose, deciduous shrub that bears beautifully scented, pale yellow flowers in winter and early spring.



*Mahonia* sp. An evergreen shrub with tough, spiky leaves and powerfully perfumed fingers of yellow flower borne in winter. Choose from massive prehistoric monsters to low growing, ground cover species

*Nandina domestica*, '*Heavenly Bamboo*'. A fantastic shrub with year round interest. New shoots flush red, then green before colouring up again in autumn and winter. Spikes of waxy white flowers are followed by red berries. H 1-2m



Osmanthus sp. Choose from the holly leaved *O. heterophyllus* for good foliage or many other species for the stunning scent of the white flowers in spring. All species have tough evergreen leaves and are good solid plants for partial shade. Heights vary



*Pachysandra terminalis*. A dense, spreading, evergreen shrub that provides thick, low ground cover. The dark, serrated leaves carry white frills of flower in early summer. If *Pachysandra* doesn't grow in your garden, nothing will! Height 20-30cm

*Prunus lusitanica*, '*Portugese Laurel*'. A vigorous, wide spreading shrub with large, waxy, dark green leaves. In partial shade *P. lusitanica* produces long spikes of deliciously fragranced flowers in April. Height 10-20m.



*Rhododendron* species and cultivars. Rhodos and Azaleas are masters of acidic shade where their luminous, late spring flowers brighten the dullest corner. Sizes and flower colours vary massively, but long leathery leaves remain the same throughout. For a perfect display, go to Isabella Plantation in Richmond Park.

*Sarcococca* sp, '*Sweet Box*', '*Christmas Box*'. A small evergreen shrub with shiny, dark green leaves. Exquisitely scented tassels of white flower appear in February and waft their sent through the garden. Small, dark berries follow in autumn. This shrub excels in dark corners. Height 60cm.



*Skimmia japonica*. An evergreen shrub with waxy, dark green leaves. Rounded spikes of tiny red buds appear in autumn and stay until early spring when they open to scented white. Prefers ericaceous soil. Height 1m

*Philadelphus*. '*Mock Orange*'. A strong growing, medium sized shrub with deciduous, mid green leaves. Creamy white, richly fragrant flowers are borne in early summer. Best grown in partial shade. Height 120cm.





*Viburnum tinus*, '*Laurustinus*': A solid shrub with dark, evergreen leaves. The pale pink buds open to white scented flowers through winter; ovoid, metallic-blue fruits follow. Height 2-2.5m.

*Vinca major* and *minor*, '*Periwinkle*': A creeping, evergreen shrub that excels as ground cover in difficult, shady areas. The pretty blue, white or red flowers sit on top of dark green or variegated leaves. Height 30-60cm



*Weigela* sp. A deciduous shrub with green, bronze or variegated leaves. Arching stems are covered in bright funnel shaped flowers during May - June and again in late summer if pruned after first flush. Height 1.5m.