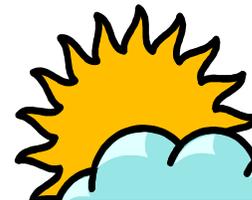


# WESTON GARDENS

## Top 20 SHADE Perennials



**Cast Iron Plant** - (*Aspidistra eliator*): Evergreen, dark green foliage (4" x 18" leaves), and the ability to persist and thrive under the most adverse conditions and low light. What more could you ask for? One of the toughest plants for shady areas in the landscape. Direct sun will burn its foliage. Use it in masses and as a contrast to ferns. ●

**Texas Columbine** - (*Aquilegia* sp.) All four yellow, native Texas Columbines are excellent. (*A. hinckleyana*, *A. longissima*, *A. chrysantha*, *A. chaplinei*): Plant in shade or eastern sun exposures. They bloom prolifically in March - May. This plant is also an evergreen with fine-textured, lacy foliage. Grows 1' -2' tall and blooms are bell-shaped with long spurs. *Aquilegia canadensis* is also a good performer and produces a red and yellow combination. ● ◎

**Coral Bells** - (*Heuchera* sp.): Ornamental, decorative foliage characterizes this semi-evergreen. (Leaves resemble maple or ivy). Leaves are green, purple or variegated depending on the variety. Grow 12" to 18" tall and wide. Some of our favorites include '**Palace Purple**' (deep purple foliage) and '**Snow Angel**' (variegated, light green with mottled white leaves). Flowers spikes are held above the foliage and are pink-red to white. Coral Bells do best in well-prepared, moist and well-drained soil. Plant in partial shade to shade. ● ◎

**Holly Fern** - (*Cyrtomium falcatum*): One of the best for providing evergreen foliage throughout the season. It needs protection from hot sun/wind and needs good soil and moisture. The foliage is thick, shiny and dark green. Unusual texture. Grows to 2' tall. ●

**Japanese Painted Fern** - (*Athyrium niponicum 'Pictum'*): A 12" growing fern with metallic gray to gray-green fronds. This most unusual fern shows best color in partial shade in soil that is never wet but never dries out. Fronds emerge in early spring making it a great companion for early blooming perennials and bulbs. Will tolerate several hours of sun. Very hardy and easy to grow. ● ◎

**Tassel Fern** - (*Polystichum polyblepharum*): Graceful evergreen fern. Grows 18" x 24". Fronds are very tropical in appearance - this fern looks like a jungle-growing fern. Needs a moist, well-drained soil and protection from direct, hot sun. One of the best performers in our gardens. ●

**Wood Fern** - (*Dryopteris normalis*): One of the best ferns for our climate and soil conditions. The Wood Fern prefers well-prepared, moist soils with high organic content. They are easily grown in shady areas and will grow to 2'-3' tall x 2' - 3' wide. Deciduous. Very handsome, lush lime green foliage. One of the most widely planted ferns for our area, and it is easy to understand why. Outstanding. ●

**Strawberry Geranium** - (*Saxifraga stolonifera*): Outstanding foliage - its leaves are lime green with silver veins and reddish undersides. One of the finest, unique groundcovers for full shade and dappled shade. Needs excellent drainage - it is often used in rock gardens trailing over walls. Grows 1' - 1.5' tall. As an added bonus, Strawberry Geranium produces dainty white flowers borne above the foliage in early spring. Very hardy and decorative. ● ◎

**Hosta** - (*Hosta* sp.): The best for foliage accent. A widely cultivated genus of plants that hail originally from China and Japan which perform very well in our area as long as they are planted in deep to moderate shade. Hostas come in many leaf shapes and leaf colors. They bear lily-like flowers (white to pale lavender) on graceful stalks held well above the foliage in late summer. Leaf colors range from lime green to dark green to dark blue, and many Hostas are variegated. Some of our personal favorites include '**Francee**', '**Frances Williams**', '**Old August Lily**', and '**Royal Standard**'. Try a few and you'll want more. ● ◎

●:Shade ○:Sun ◎:Partial Shade



**Inland Sea Oats** - (*Chasmanthium latifolium*): An outstanding ornamental grass for the shade. Lush foliage topped by heavy, nodding seed heads. It grows 2' - 3' tall. The attractive foliage changes from dark green to copper bronze in the fall. The foliage is bamboo-like in character. Inland Sea Oats are excellent in fresh and dried arrangements. Prefers moist, well-drained soil. ● ◎

**Iris** - (*Iris* sp.): Use this versatile plant in partial shade to full sun. Especially recommended are Louisiana and Bearded Iris. Louisianas are suited to boggy areas or poorly drained soils, but they will also work in other areas if watered well. Louisiana Iris offer a myriad of colors and bloom shapes. Bearded have been in North Texas gardens forever, and this is a strong testimony to their resilience. Hybridizers continue to amaze us with so many beautiful colors and features that we don't have enough room in our gardens. Iris make beautiful cut flowers, and foliage is an excellent foil to other plants. Very easy to grow but very rewarding. ○ ◎

**Oxalis** - (*Oxalis* sp.): The traditional pink flowering variety (*O. crassipes*) is one of the toughest plants we know. Oxalis starts blooming in early spring and continues into the summer. If not watered, it will sometimes go dormant in the hottest months, then will return to flower again in the fall and early winter. Oxalis is a low growing plant (12" x 12") used to best advantage at the edge of the border. White flowering selections and unusual purple foliage varieties are also available. Protect from hot afternoon sun. Outstanding foliage and flower. ● ◎

**Woodland Phlox** - (*Phlox divaricata*, *P. x 'Chatahoochie'*, *P. pilosa*): Bloom early in the season (late February to April) and are very showy blue to dark pink in color. **Phlox divaricata** and **P. 'Chatahoochie'** are evergreen. All are low growing (10" - 12") and are compact. They grow well in partial shade to full sun. A white flowering variety is also available. They prefer well-drained soil that is prepared with plenty of organic matter. Great groundcovers and early spring color. ● ○ ◎

**Pigeonberry** - (*Rivina humilis*): An excellent groundcover and low tier grower for the front of the border. Grows in full to partial shade to 10" - 12" tall. Flowers (light pink) are accompanied by bright red berries which occur on the plant from April to frost. Birds love this plant and you will too. ● ◎

**Rain Lily** - (*Zephyranthes* sp.): Outstanding evergreen, low growing plant that blooms in the fall. Blooms in response to rain and often will continue to flower several weeks after a rain. Grows 10" - 12" tall, and flowers are white, pink or yellow depending on variety. Excellent plants. ◎

**Lyre Leaf Sage** - (*Salvia lyrata*): Lyre Leaf Sage prefers shade to partial shade and is a good substitute for Ajuga. Foliage is green with purple veins and jagged, wavy edges. Flowers are light blue and are on stalks above the foliage in early spring. Grows 12" - 18" tall and makes an outstanding aggressive groundcover. Grows in most any soil ● ◎.

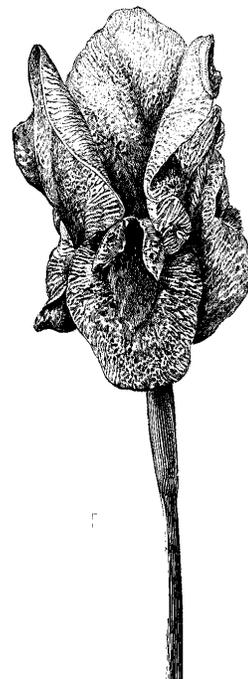
**Turk's Cap** - (*Malvaviscus arboreus* v. *drummondii*): Another excellent shade performer, Turk's Cap fills the bill (it also does well in sunny spots). From May through frost, bright red flowers accent the heavily textured light green leaves of this plant. Generally grows 3' - 4' tall. Hummingbirds and butterflies love the colorful flowers. Grows in any well-drained soil. It has survived and thrived in our demonstration gardens for over 60 years ● ○ ◎

**Wild Petunia** - (*Ruellia* sp.) (*R. brittoniana*, *R. 'Katie's Dwarf'*, *R. nudiflora*, *R. malacosperma*, *R. caroliniensis*): Right now at Weston Gardens, we sell six different *Ruellia* and all are excellent. They range in height from 10" to 3'. All have crinkly, purple/lavender flowers (we now have white and pink flowering varieties, too) that resemble petunias. This is the perfect plant for those troublesome shady areas where no other flowering plant will grow. This plant will also grow in full sun. Blooms April to November. **'Katie's Dwarf'** is an especially lush, low grower with long, thin leaves. ● ○ ◎

**Wood Violet** - (*Viola* sp.): A great woodland groundcover. Use Wood Violets in areas of heavy shade where you want to encourage naturalizing/spreading plantings. They will bloom in early spring (purple, lavender or white) for six to eight weeks. Wood Violets tend to go dormant in our hot, dry summers and will return in the fall to remain green the rest of the year. Variegated varieties are also available. ● ◎

**Zexmenia** - (*Zexmenia hispida*): A small, shrubby perennial that is covered with dainty, golden yellow daisies from April till August. *Zexmenia* grows 24" - 30" tall and blooms well in the sun or heavy shade. It is often found in the Texas Hill country growing under the shade of cedar trees. A tough, drought tolerant plant that is an excellent addition to the cultivated garden. ● ○ ◎

●:Shade ○:Sun ◎:Partial Shade



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