

# Plants that will grow in *some* shade:

sorted by moisture preference

[http://prrcd.org/inl/recommended\\_plants.htm](http://prrcd.org/inl/recommended_plants.htm)

genus	species	common name	height	comments	growth form	sun	moisture*
<i>Anemone</i>	<i>virginiana</i>	tall thimbleweed	3 ft		forb	psw	ooXXo
<i>Aster</i>	<i>shortii</i>	Short's aster	3 ft		forb	sw	ooXXo
<i>Geranium</i>	<i>maculatum</i>	wild geranium	3 ft	lovely delicate flowers	forb	s	ooXXo
<i>Hepatica</i>	<i>acutiloba</i>	wild hepatica	0.5 ft	acidic soil	forb	w	ooXXo
<i>Hystrix</i>	<i>patula</i>	bottlebrush grass	3 ft		grass	sw	ooXXo
<i>Lespedeza</i>	<i>virginica</i>	slender bush clover	2 ft	may reseed	forb	s	ooXXo
<i>Penstemon</i>	<i>digitalis</i>	foxglove penstemon	3 ft	flower stalk adds another ft	forb	psw	ooXXo
<i>Podophyllum</i>	<i>peltatum</i>	may apple	1 ft	spring ephemeral	forb	sw	ooXXo
<i>Polygonatum</i>	<i>canaliculatum</i>	great Solomon's seal	4 ft		forb	psw	ooXXo
<i>Polygonatum</i>	<i>biflorum</i>	smooth solomon's seal	1-3 ft		forb	sw	ooXXo
<i>Solidago</i>	<i>ulmifolia</i>	elm-leaved goldenrod	3 ft		forb	sw	ooXXo
<i>Tradescantia</i>	<i>subaspera</i>	zigzag spiderwort	3 ft		grass-like leaves	s	ooXXo
<i>Aquilegia</i>	<i>canadensis</i>	columbine	1-2 ft	flower stalk may add 1 ft, will reseed	forb	psw	ooXXX
<i>Ceanothus</i>	<i>ovatus</i>	red root		shrub - do not cut back after growing season	forb	s	ooXXX
<i>Aster</i>	<i>sagittifolius</i>	swamp aster	3 - 4 ft		forb	psw	oXXoo
<i>Blephilia</i>	<i>hirsuta</i>	hairy wood mint	3 ft	aromatic	forb	sw	oXXoo
<i>Clematis</i>	<i>virginiana</i>	virgin's bower	vine	<b>may spread aggressively</b>	forb	sw	oXXoo
<i>Hydrastis</i>	<i>canadensis</i>	goldenseal	1 ft		forb	sw	oXXoo
<i>Mertensia</i>	<i>virginica</i>	VA bluebells	2 ft	spring ephemeral	forb	sw	oXXoo
<i>Penstemon</i>	<i>calycosus</i>	calico beardtongue	4 ft		forb	psw	oXXoo
<i>Rudbeckia</i>	<i>lacinata</i>	wild golden glow	<b>7 ft</b>	<b>may be too tall, will reseed</b>	forb	psw	oXXoo
<i>Ruellia</i>	<i>strepens</i>	smooth petunia	3 ft		forb	sw	oXXoo
<i>Trillium</i>	<i>grandiflorum</i>	large-flowered trillium	1 ft		forb	sw	oXXoo
<i>Allium</i>	<i>cernuum</i>	nodding onion	2 ft	will reseed	grass-like leaves	psw	oXXXo
<i>Allium</i>	<i>tricoccum</i>	wild leek	1 ft		forb	sw	oxxxo
<i>Arisaema</i>	<i>triphyllum</i>	jack in the pulpit	1 ft		forb	sw	oXXXo
<i>Asarum</i>	<i>canadense</i>	wild ginger	0.5 ft	will spread gradually	forb	w	oXXXo
<i>Aster</i>	<i>drummondii</i>	Drummond's aster	3 ft		forb	psw	oXXXo
<i>Aster</i>	<i>laterifloris</i>	calico aster	2 ft		forb	psw	oXXXo
<i>Campanula</i>	<i>Americana</i>	tall bellflower	<b>6ft</b>	<b>may get too tall, beautiful flowers</b>	forb	sw	oXXXo
<i>Dodecatheon</i>	<i>amethystinum</i>	amethyst shooting star	1 ft		forb	psw	oXXXo
<i>Mitella</i>	<i>diphylla</i>	miterwort	1 ft		forb	sw	oXXXo

**Some plants may grow taller than listed, especially if fertilized or overwatered.**

last updated 5/2007

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<i>Osmorhiza</i>	<i>claytoni</i>	sweet cicely	2 ft		forb	w	oXXXo
<i>Phlox</i>	<i>divaricata</i>	woodland phlox	1 ft		forb	sw	oXXXo
<i>Polemonium</i>	<i>reptans</i>	jacob's ladder	0.5 ft	spring ephemeral	forb	sw	oXXXo
<i>Rudbeckia</i>	<i>fulgida</i>	orange coneflower	2-4 ft	very light shade	forb	ps	oXXXo
<i>Stylophorum</i>	<i>diphyllum</i>	celandine poppy	2 ft		forb	sw	oXXXo
<i>Thalictrum</i>	<i>dioicum</i>	early meadow rue	2 ft		forb	sw	oXXXo
<i>Allium</i>	<i>canadense</i>	wild garlic	1.5 ft		grass-like leaves	psw	oXXXX
<i>Aster</i>	<i>macrophyllus</i>	big leaved aster	1 ft	<b>may spread aggressively via rhizomes</b>	forb	sw	oXXXX
<i>Fragaria</i>	<i>virginiana</i>	wild strawberry	0.5 ft		forb	psw	oXXXX
<i>Tradescantia</i>	<i>ohioensis</i>	ohio spiderwort	2-3 ft	very light shade	grass-like leaves	ps	oXXXX
<i>Caltha</i>	<i>palustris</i>	marsh marigold	1 ft	needs good soil moisture	forb	psw	XXooo
<i>Actaea</i>	<i>rubra</i>	red baneberry	2 ft	poisonous	forb	w	XXXoo
<i>Impatiens</i>	<i>capensis</i>	spotted touch-me-not	4 ft	annual	forb	psw	XXXoo
<i>Impatiens</i>	<i>pallida</i>	jewel weed	4 ft	annual	forb	psw	XXXoo
<i>Aster</i>	<i>furcatus</i>	forked aster	2 ft		forb	sw	XXXXo
<i>Solidago</i>	<i>flexicaulis</i>	zig-zag goldenrod	3 ft	<b>may spread aggressively</b>	forb	sw	XXXXo

\* five-step moisture gradient: Xoooo = very wet, ooXoo = typical garden soil, ooooX = very dry

Plant moisture requirements are taken from the Prairie Moon catalog, [www.prairiemoonnursery.com](http://www.prairiemoonnursery.com), 866.417.8156

**P** = prairie, full sun    **S** = savanna, very light shade, dappled sunlight    **W** = woodland, little direct sunlight

questions, suggestions? Contact Inger Lamb, 515.250.1693, [inger@prrcd.org](mailto:inger@prrcd.org)

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