

SHADE LOVING PLANTS

Such plants grow well in shade or partial shade and are not able to tolerate direct scorching sunshine. In the gardens such condition is available under the trees or artificially constructed green houses, lath houses or in the verandah of buildings.

Shade loving plants are mostly grown in pots and are highly prized for their ornamental foliage and hence, are also called as “Foliage plants” and “Pot plants”.

Planting

The pot mixture used for such plants should be friable and light enough to drain out extra water. Organic matters such as leaf mould helps to retain moisture. Rich soil should be avoided to cause undue stimulation of growth in plants which is not desired.

Similarly, over feeding is not advisable otherwise plants produce unattractive ragged growth. The weak fertilizer should be applied once in two years. The Pot mixture for such plants should be comprised of 2 parts of garden soil : 1 part sand : 2 parts leaf mould : 1 part Farm yard Manure. The soil should be sterilized by heating to kill harmful bacteria and fungi.

Watering should be done when plant exhibits initial symptoms of water stress. At the time of watering, about 10% more water should be applied than actual requirement. Extra water will drain out from drain hole.

Repotting of plants should be done when plant becomes pot bound. It should be done either in rainy season or Feb.-March. At time of flowering extra root should be removed time to time. Plant growth also depends on availability of fresh air and light. If plants are being kept inside the rooms, they should be transferred to airy environment before any symptom of sickness are exhibited and thereafter shifted inside again.

Description of Important Shade Loving Plants

Common Name	Botanical Name	Family	Remarks
Agloanema	Agloanema spp.	Araceae	Erect habit with slender pointed leaves.
Alocasia	Alocasia spp.	Araceae	Bushy growth , Sagittate peltate leaves.
Anthurium	Anthurium spp.	Araceae	Ornamental leaf, colourful spathes Which are rigid and waxy. Rhizomatous plants, division type propagation
Aphelandra	Aphelandra auriantiaca	Acanthaceae	Flowers are bracted spikes of scarlet colour
Asparagus	Asparagus spp.	Liliaceae	Ornament foliage, tuberous rooted
Ribbon plant	Chlorophytum comosum variegata	Liliaceae	Large rosette of arching, green linear leaves have White margins.
Spider plant	Chlorophytum comosum vittatum	Liliaceae	Narrow linear, recurving leaves with white centre. Plantlets develops from long racemes.
Shrimp plant	Beloperone guttata	Acanthaceae	White flowers. Wiry stems and ovate leaves.
Caladium	Caladium hortulanum	Araceae	Tuberous herb. Heart shaped leaves.
Coleus	Coleus blumeri	Labiatae	Beautiful foliage , makes a garden in itself.cutting
Red dracena	Cordyline spp.	Liliaceae	Remais colourful in semi shade.
Croton	Codiaeum variegatum	Euphorbiaceae	Valued for ornamental foliage. Layering
Diffenbachia	Diffenbachia spp.	Araceae	No. 1 foliage plant
Exocaria	Exocaria bicolor		Dwarf bushy Plants.
Ficus	Ficus elastica	Moraceae	
Ghost tree Algerian Ivy	Hedera canariensis	Araliceae	No.1 Pot plant. Leaves are broadly ovate and shallowly lobed.
Bryophyllum	Kalanchoe spp.	Crassulaceae	Leaf cuttings. <i>K. tomentosa</i> (Panda plant)
Carimen	Monstera deliciosa	Araceae	Tree climber and produce aerial roots. Leaves are pinnate cut and perforated with holes.
Philodendron	Philodendron spp.	Araceae	Used for interior decoration.
Song of India	Pleomele reflexavariegata	Liliaceae	Self branching, Slow growing.
Butcher's Broom	Ruscus aculeatus	Liliaceae	Erect and bushy type. Leaf bud propagation
Money plant/pot	Scindapsus aureus	Araceae	Devils Ivy. Aerial rootlets. Marble Queen
Tradescantia	Tredscantia spp.	Commelinacea	Hanging baskets. Stem cuttings.
Wandering Jew	Zebrina pendula	Commelinacea	Fleshy and Creeping stems. Cutting.