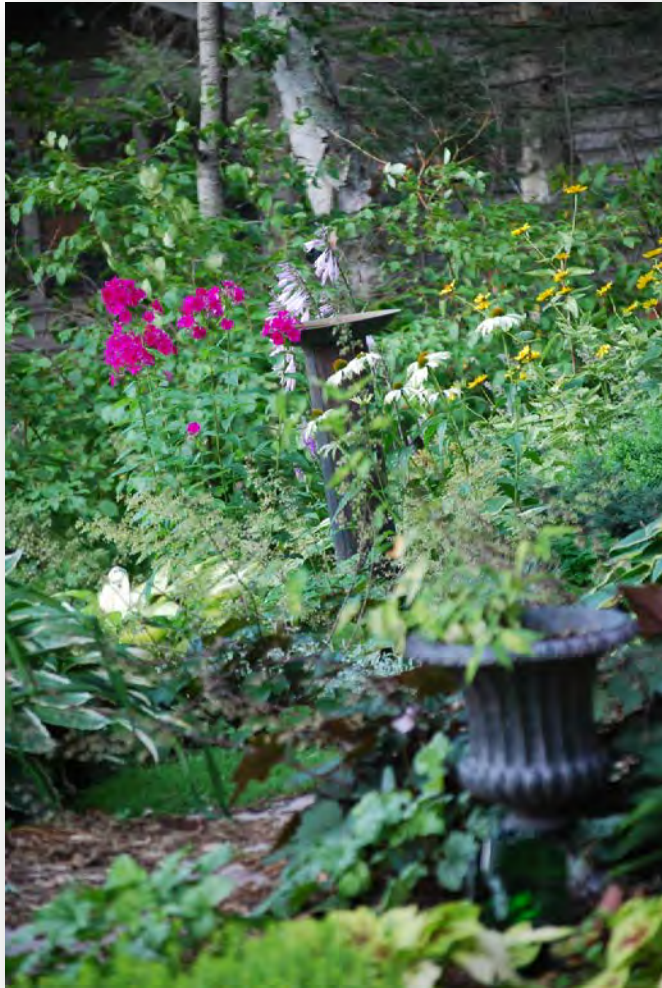


Woodland Gardens



Sue Reinardy, University of Wisconsin Extension – Master Gardener Volunteer

Elements of Woodland Garden



1. Overstory trees for shade
2. Understory
3. Tie together with shrubs
4. Interesting woodland floor
5. Add a few details

Shade Loving or Shade Tolerant



- Plants adapt
- Sun plants may do well in shade, just flower less or become smaller
- Shade plants may do well in sun, just need more water

Advantages

- Flower blooms tend to last longer and color is more intense than in the sun
- Plant foliage is unlikely to suffer burns
- Plants tend to need less fertilizer
- Weeds tend to be less of a problem
- Less maintenance
- Fewer insect problems
- Trees provide natural leaf mulch during winter months

Disadvantages

- Few plants and colors
- Plants grow more slowly
- Foliage tends to remain wet longer
- Slugs and snails
- Soil acidity





Types of Shade

- Deep, Dense, Heavy, Full
- Partial, Half, Medium, Dappled
- Filtered, light, thin

- Wet or dry
- Morning or afternoon sun
- Seasonal shade



Tips to growing sun loving plants in the shade

- Plants grow leggier in shade, so buy the bushiest, most compact specimens
- If you like a certain sun-loving plant but only have shade – try it there.
- When buying shade-tolerant plants, pick varieties that bloom early, before deciduous trees block the light during their most active growth

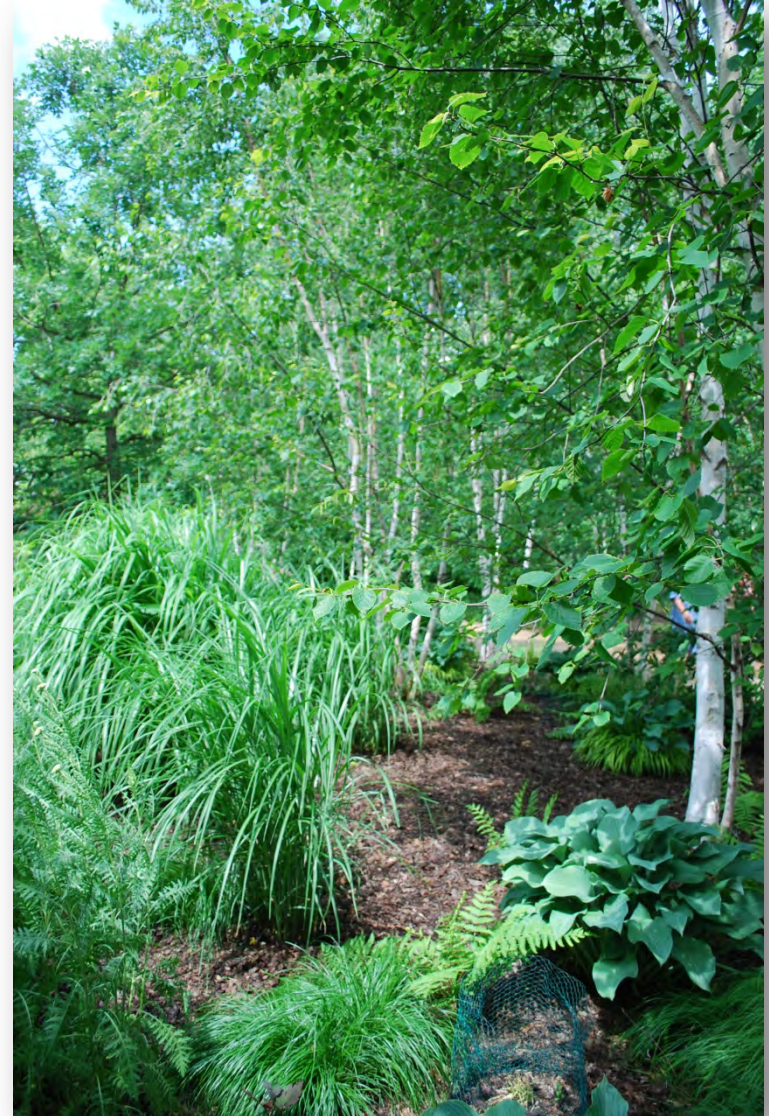
Colors

- Dominate shade colors: white, blue, mauve, pink
- Daylilies can add splash of color
- Start with “anchor” plants like hydrangea or viburnum
- Light colors will stand out in shade



Tips for planting under trees

- Avoid damaging tree roots
 - do not add soil on top of tree roots
 - gently plant between roots
 - do not cut into roots 2" or larger
 - use a layer of mulch no deeper than 2-4" thick
- Look to nature for inspiration in plant selection
- Be prepared to water the first year or two until plants are established
- Use containers to add color



Bulbs in Shade Garden

(in order from early to late)

- Snowdrops (Galanthus)
- Crocus
- Siberian Squill (Scilla Siberica)
- Winter Aconite (Eranthus)
- Daffodils (Narcissus)
- Double Grape Hyacinth (Muscari)
- Tulips
- Wood Hyacinth (Scilla companulata)
- Alliums



Dry vs. Moist

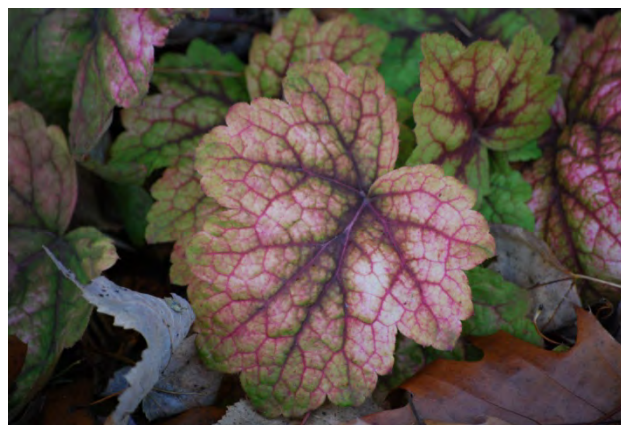
- Dry

- Mulch, water new plants
- Hellebore, Spotted Deadnettle, Bloodroot, fern, trillium, lady's mantle



- Moist

- Consistent moisture
- Astilbe, Brunnera, Fernleaf bleeding heart, Coral bells



Light Shade

1. Aster
2. Turtlehead (*Chelone obliqua*)
3. Cranesbill Geranium (*Geranium sanguineum*)
4. Bee Balm (*Monarda* 'Jacob Kline')
5. *Phlox*
 1. *P. divaricata* (woodland)
 2. *P. maculata* (early)
 3. *P. paniculata* (border)
 4. *P. stolonifera* (creeping)
 5. *P. subulata* (moss)
6. Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*)



Medium Shade Perennials



1. Astilbe
2. Daylily
3. Jacob's Ladder
4. Lady's Mantle
5. Solomon's Seal
6. Bleeding Heart
7. Spiderwort
8. Spotted Deadnettle

Full Shade Perennials

1. Coral bells
2. Japanese painted fern (*Athyrium* x)
3. Hosta
4. Sedges



Ferns

- Cultivars for full sun to full shade
- Large (3 feet)
 - Ostrich (*Matteuccia tructhiopteris*)
 - Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*)
 - Cinnamon (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)
 - Interrupted (*Osmunda claytoniana*)
- Intermediate (12 to 36 inches)
 - Maidenhair (*Adiantum pedatum*)
 - Spinulose woodfern (*Dryopteris carthusiana*)
 - Oak (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*)
- Small (4 to 12 inches)
 - Bulblet (*Cystopteris bulbifera*)
 - Fragile (*Cystopteris fragilis*)



Hosta



- Low maintenance, quick growing
- Variety of leaf sizes, shapes, colors, and textures
- Best leaf color in partial shade, avoid afternoon sun
- Option: remove flowers as they sprout or as flowers fade
- Divide anytime during growing season

Moss Gardens

- Moss grows best in shade or part shade
- Acidic soil (pH 5.0 to 6.0)
- No fertilizing necessary
- Cut, move, keep moist for 3 weeks to transplant



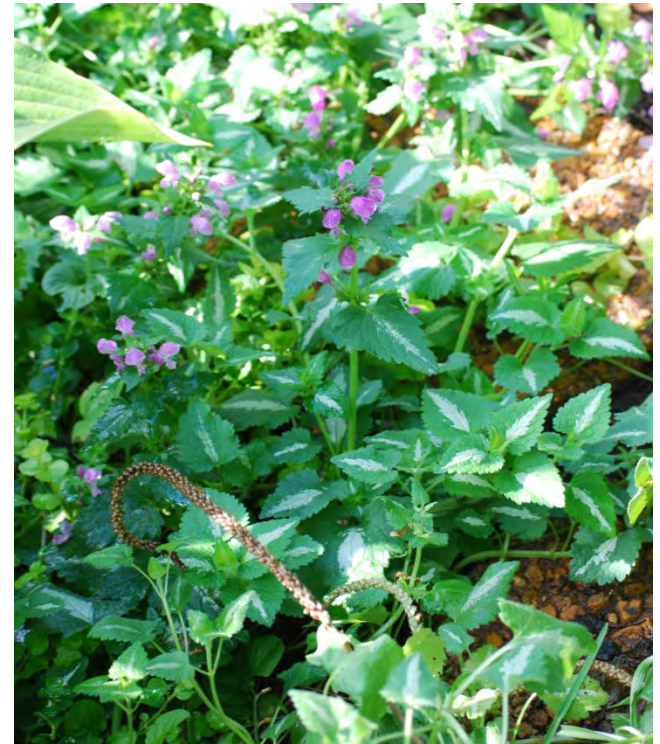
Bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans*)

- Evergreen, green, bronze or variegated
- One plant can fill a 3 foot square
- Full sun to part shade
- Avoid open or exposed areas – may suffer winter kill
- Minimal fertilization needed to keep plants healthy



Deadnettle (*Lamium maculatum*)

- Excellent ground cover for shaded areas
- Prefers moist, well drained soil
- Part to full shade
- Pest free
- Lift and divide overgrown plants
- Can be aggressive
- Cultivars: Beacon Silver, White Nancy



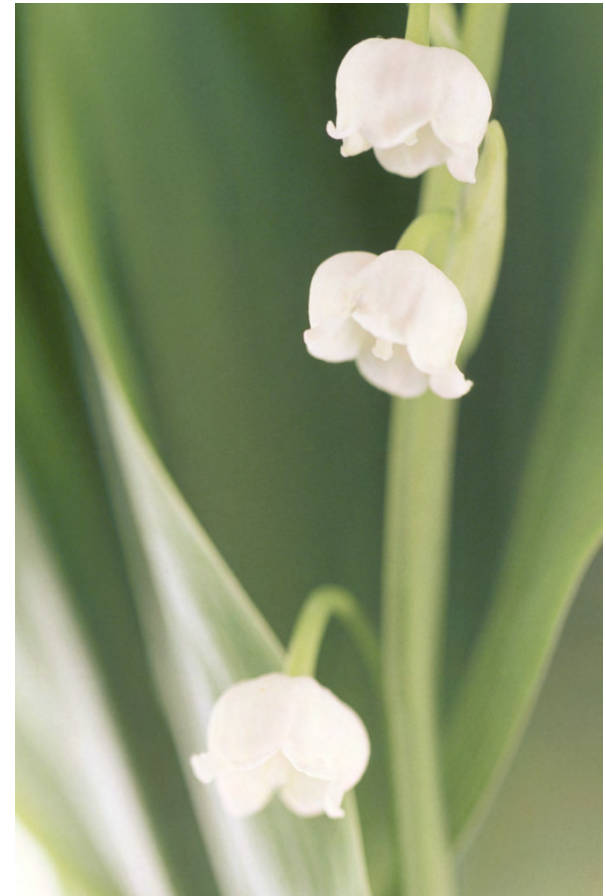
Lenten Rose (*Helleborus x Hybridus*)



- Partial to full shade, moist, well-drained alkaline soil
- Plants are evergreen
- Prune off dead leaves in late winter or mow for complete renewal
- Can reseed heavily, flowers about 3rd year

Lily-of-the-Valley (*Convallaria majalis*)

- Caution: can be aggressive in garden, invasive near woodlands
- Prefer moist, well drained soil
- Part to full shade
- Not a good choice in a garden setting
- Plants under trees benefit from a yearly application of fertilizer in early spring



Moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*)

- Aggressive
- Tolerate wide range of conditions, prefers shade with moist to wet organic soil
- Minimal fertilizer needed
- Monitor planting, pruning back and pulling plants that have overgrown space



Vinca (*Vinca minor*)

- Evergreen, zone 4
- Shade-tolerant, use under trees and shrubs
- Grow in protected area from winter wind and sun to avoid winter burn
- Moist, well-drained soil and good air circulation
- Pinch back to promote branching and denser cover



Thank You



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