

MADE IN THE SHADE

Updated 1/9/18

Craig R. Miller
Parks & Open Space Manager
www.cpnmd.org



Plants for the cool, shady spots in your garden...

- A shady spot in your landscape offers the opportunity to grow some wonderful and unique plant selections that not only tolerate shade, but prefer it.
- These include richly-colored flowers, plants with lush foliage, flowering groundcovers, and vines that will climb and provide cover.
- Best of all, air temperatures in a shade garden can be 15-25 degrees cooler than in the open sun!
- Let's first define the various sun exposure terms that you may read or find on plant labels. "Full sun" means at least six hours of direct unfiltered light per day, but some plants such as vegetables really need eight to ten hours per day.
- "Partial sun" or "partial shade" means that the plant needs 3-6 hours of direct sun per day. The terms sometimes are used interchangeably. However, being shaded in the morning is not the same as being shaded from the scorching afternoon sun.
- "Partial sun" usually implies that the plant needs more sun and is more heat tolerant. "Partial shade" implies that the plant should be protected from the sun during the afternoon.
- "Shade" does not mean pitch black, of course. More plants tolerate dappled shade than can live in really deep shade.
- Regardless of a plant's label, how much sun it needs or will tolerate varies with the strength of the sun and on how much you water.
- If you methodically plot out the sun exposure in different parts of your garden, you may be in for some surprises. What is baking hot at noon may really be dappled shade the rest of the day. What is dappled sun in April may be full shade in July, when the shrubs need light to produce next year's flowers. So create a chart once the trees have leafed out and make hourly observations.

Deciduous Trees

'Flame' Ginnala Maple (Acer ginnala 'Flame')

- An improved variety of the popular Ginnala or Amur Maple. Hardy to - 50 degrees!
- Versatile single stem or multi-stemmed small tree with a uniform branching habit.
- Consistent fall color ranges from brilliant orange to deep red.
- An excellent choice for planting under utility lines or in small spaces. Full sun to partial shade.
- Mature height and spread 20'. Zone 2, maximum elevation 10,000 feet.

Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry (Amelanchier x grandiflora 'Autumn Brilliance')

- Fringe-like white flowers in spring, very reliable.
- Edible berries mature in June, very attractive to birds
- Outstanding orange-red fall color.
- Full sun to partial shade. Low to moderate water needs.
- Mature height 15' height, 10' spread. Zone 4, maximum elevation 8,500 feet.

Wafer Ash (*Ptelea trifoliata*) 

- Unique multi-stemmed small tree with a rounded crown.
- Clusters of fragrant, ½" greenish-white flowers in June produce persistent elm-like wafers 1" in diameter.
- Leaves are tri-foliolate with 3" long, light green waxy leaflets. Bright yellow fall color.
- One of the few small trees which performs well in full shade. No major insect or disease issues. Partial shade to full shade.
- Mature height and spread 15'. Zone 4, maximum elevation 7,000 feet.

Shrubs

Upright Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia* 'Erecta') 

- Red Chokeberry is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth.
- Forest green oval leaves turn an outstanding red in the fall. Red berries early fall to late winter.
- Showy panicles of white flowers with red anthers at the ends of the branches in mid spring.
- Full sun to full shade, does well in clay soils.
- Mature height 7', spread 5'. Zone 4, maximum elevation 7,500 feet.

Arctic Fire™ Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera* 'Farrow') 

- This compact selection of Red Twig Dogwood has dark red stems that provide a spectacular show in the winter sunlight.
- Tiny, fragrant, white flowers appear in flat-topped clusters in late spring.
- The best red color appears on one and two year old stems; older stems will turn corky and brown.
- Full sun to partial shade, tolerant of a wide range of soils.
- Mature height and spread 3 to 4'. Zone 3, maximum elevation 8,000 feet.

Peking Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster acutifolius*) 

- Useful natural hedge or screen with small pink flowers followed by interesting, long-lasting black fruit.
- Berries feed birds throughout the winter.
- Shiny green leaves turn brilliant orange-red in the fall.
- Full sun to partial shade, thrives in poor soils, hardy to - 30° F.
- Mature height 6 to 8', spread 4 to 6'. Zone 4, maximum elevation 8,000 feet.

Carol Mackie Daphne (*Daphne x burkwoodi* 'Carol Mackie')

- A 1997 Plant Select introduction, this shrub likes cool, well drained alkaline soils. Excessive moisture must be avoided.
- Rich green foliage with a yellow margin that matures to white.
- Clusters of highly fragrant, light pink flowers in early spring followed by tiny red berries.
- Partial shade, this shrub requires protection from the winter wind and sun.
- Mature height 3', spread 4'. Zone 5, maximum elevation 7,000 feet.

Kodiak® Orange Honeysuckle (*Diervilla rivularis* 'G2X88544')   

- This durable native plant is drought tolerant and thrives in dry shade.
- Bright yellow flower clusters in early summer, attractive to butterflies.
- Glowing orange fall color stands out in the fall landscape.
- Full sun to full shade, xeric and deer resistant. Best fall color with some sun.
- Mature height and spread 3 to 4'. Zone 4, maximum elevation 7,000 feet.

Dwarf Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus* 'Compactus')

- Great accent plant or natural hedge with a scarlet red fall coloring.
- Interesting compact, mounded form displays attractive rich green leaves spring through summer.
- An adaptable shrub that tolerates a wide range of soils except for wet, poorly-drained ones.
- Full sun to partial shade, tolerates clay soils. Also tolerant of full shade, but at the expense of fall color.
- Mature height 5', spread 4'. Zone 4, maximum elevation 7,500 feet.

Incrediball® Smooth Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens* 'Abetwo')

- An improved cultivar of 'Annabelle' Hydrangea that produces four times as many blooms.
- Massive 12" flowers open green, then mature to white before fading to green again. Blooms June to fall.
- Very sturdy stems hold the blooms upright even if soaked with rain.
- This cold hardy shrub blooms on new growth, so even very cold winters won't keep it from blooming.
- Best in moist, well drained soils; partial shade.
- Mature height and spread 4'. Zone 3, Maximum elevation 7,000 feet.

Dwarf Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Nanus')

- Compact shrub with lobed dark green leaves that turn shades of yellow and bronze in the fall.
- Attractive white flowers from spring to early summer.
- Drooping clusters of red seed pods appear shortly after bloom.
- Also noted for its exfoliating bark on mature branches which provides great winter interest.
- Full sun to full shade, does great in clay soils; makes a great hedge.
- Mature height and spread 5'. Zone 2, maximum elevation 8,000 feet.

Fine Line® Fern Leaf Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula* 'Ron Williams')



- Lacy fern-like foliage and a narrow columnar growth habit provides great texture and shape to the garden.
- Perfect for hedges and screens, this thornless buckthorn's fruit is non-viable, so is not invasive.
- Drought tolerant once established, it is adaptable to a wide variety of soils.
- Full sun to partial shade, hardy to -50° F; brilliant yellow fall color
- Mature height 8', spread 3'. Zone 3, maximum elevation 8,000 feet.

Green Mound Current (*Ribes alpinum* 'Green Mound')

- A dense, compact form of Alpine Current that has darker green leaves and bright yellow fall color.
- This is a male cultivar, so it sets no fruit. Spring flowers are insignificant.
- Multi-stemmed dwarf shrub with a mound-forming habit and dense nature. Excellent for hedges.
- Green Mound is adaptable to a variety of soils – hardy to -50° F; full sun to full shade.
- Mature height and spread 3'. Zone 2, maximum elevation 10,000 feet +.

Western Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*)

- Songbirds use this plant for food, cover and nesting sites.
- In mid-summer, it has small, pale pink flowers. The flowers turn into white waxy berries later in the summer.
- Western snowberry suckers through underground stems, so it can become problematic if planted in a place where it you don't want it to spread.
- Full sun to full shade; one of the best things about this plant is it likes dry shade!
- Mature height 3 to 5', spread 5'. Zone 3, maximum elevation 8,500 feet.

Korean Spice Viburnum (*Viburnum carlesii*)



- Plant this shrub where you can enjoy the incredible fragrance of its spring flowers!
- Intense fragrance is emitted by pinkish-red buds which open to clusters of round white flowers, March-April.
- Soft gray-green leaves turn bronze-red to burgundy in fall.
- Full sun to partial shade, this shrub surrounds the Rose Garden at the White House.
- Mature height and spread 6'. Zone 4, maximum elevation 7,000 feet.

Mohican Viburnum (*Viburnum lantana* 'Mohican')



- Compact shrub with dark green leathery leaves, turning to maroon red in the fall.
- Showy flat-topped creamy white flowers cover the plant late April-May.
- Orange-red fruit appears in early July, lasting a month before turning black.
- Full sun to partial shade, this shrub tolerates dry soils once established.
- Mature height and spread 6 to 8'. Zone 4, Maximum elevation 7,500 feet.

Evergreens

Chicagoland Green® Boxwood (*Buxus* x 'Glencoe')



- Chosen by the Chicago Botanic Garden for outstanding cold hardiness, this resilient boxwood holds its glossy evergreen foliage very well in winter.
- Slow growing (2 to 3" a year) with a compact form, it makes an excellent foundation plant or a low hedge, either sheared or informal. Hardy to -32° F.
- Partial shade to full shade, this shrub requires protection from the winter wind and sun.
- Mature height and spread 3 to 4'. Zone 4, maximum elevation 7,000 feet.

Purpleleaf Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei* 'Coloratus')



- Ivy-like growth makes an outstanding evergreen groundcover or low, spreading shrub.
- Deep-green foliage turns a beautiful, rich plum color during the fall and winter.
- One of the most cold-hardy and durable groundcovers available. Branches root along stems wherever they touch the ground.
- Full sun to full shade.
- Mature height 2', spread 6 to 8'. Zone 4, maximum elevation 6,500 feet.

Blue Star Juniper (*Juniperus squamata*)



- Slow growing juniper with a compact habit and mounding growth pattern.
- Attractive sparkling blue foliage on dense, spreading branches.
- Perfect for the front of the border, in rock gardens or as a focal point to be admired for its shape and color.
- Partial shade to full shade, best color with morning sun, afternoon shade. Water regularly until established.
- Mature height 2 to 3', spread 4 to 5'. Zone 4, maximum elevation 7,500 feet.

Creeping Oregon Grape Holly (*Mahonia repens*)



- This native evergreen groundcover with holly-like leaves does well in shade gardens.
- Low spreading form displays bright yellow flowers in May followed by blue-black fruit clusters.
- Leaves turn shades of red in the fall and remain until new growth in the spring.
- Full sun to partial shade, tolerant of most soils.
- Mature height and spread 12 to 18". Zone 5, maximum elevation 10,000 feet.

Birds Nest Spruce (*Picea abies* 'Nidiformis') 

- Versatile, dwarf form is an excellent evergreen for border, accent or container.
- Outward-curving branches give a bird's nest effect.
- Tight, compact shape requires little maintenance.
- Very hardy and wind resistant.
- Partial shade, avoid wet, shady sites. Not a good choice for hot, dry locations.
- Mature height 3', spread 6'. Zone 3, Maximum elevation 8,000 feet.

Dwarf Globe Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens* 'Glauca Globosa') 

- 'Glauca Globosa' is a dwarf, globe-shaped blue-needled Blue Spruce cultivar with a distinctive flattened top.
- Slow growing (2 to 3" a year); powder blue needles provide year round interest.
- Makes an outstanding specimen plant - use as a focal point in a shrub border, rock garden or as a low hedge.
- Full sun to partial shade, prefers a well-drained soil.
- Mature height 3 to 5', spread 4 to 6'. Zone 3, maximum elevation 8,000 feet.

Holmstrup Arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis* 'Holmstrup')

- This densely branched, compact evergreen has a neat, narrow and conical formal appearance.
- Holds dark green color well throughout the cold season. Provides year-round interest as a landscape accent, hedge or foundation plant.
- Prefers moist, neutral to alkaline, well-drained loams. Intolerant of dry conditions.
- Full sun to partial shade, it appreciates afternoon shade.
- Mature height 5 to 7', spread 2 to 3'. Zone 3, maximum elevation 9,000 feet.

Perennials

Burgundy Glow Ajuga (*Ajuga reptans* 'Burgundy Glow')  

- Spreading groundcover with colorful burgundy tinged green and cream variegated foliage. Deep blue flower spikes appear in summer.
- Also known as Bugle Weed, this plant forms a dense, carpet-like mat, even in deep shade.
- Tolerant of full sun and full shade, Ajuga needs a moist, well-drained soil. Water weekly, or more often in extreme heat.
- Mature height 2 to 4", spread 24". Zone 4, Maximum elevation 8,000 feet.

Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*)   

- This perennial is popular for its beautiful velvety soft olive-green foliage and the texture it brings to the garden.
- Its fuzzy, cupped leaves hold droplets of water after a rain and it blooms in sprays of dainty, yellow flowers June-July.
- Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to partial shade, but tolerates close to full shade.
- Mature height 12 to 18", spread 24". Zone 3, maximum elevation 7,000 feet.

Astilbe (*Astilbe x japonica*)  

- Astilbes are mainstays of shade and woodland gardens. They are clump-forming perennials which feature graceful, fern-like leaves.
- These plume-flowered plants have stiff stems that hold the elegant flowers (June-July) aloft without any staking.
- Partial shade to full shade, Astilbes prefer an average well-drained soil.
- Mature height 2 to 4", spread 24". Zone 3, maximum elevation 8,500 feet.

Heartleaf Bergenia (*Bergenia cordifolia*) 

- Bergenia (a.k.a. Pigsqueak) is an evergreen perennial plant with leathery, heart shaped leaves.
- Leaves are usually glossy green but in colder regions they tend to turn red or bronze in the fall.
- In late spring or early summer, bright magenta flowers appear high above the foliage. They can re-bloom again in early fall.
- Full sun to full shade. The common name comes from the noise it makes when 2 leaves are rubbed together.
- Mature height 12 to 15", spread 18". Zone 3, maximum elevation 8,000 feet.

Sweet Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*)   

- Attractive low, spreading groundcover with small, white fragrant flowers May-June.
- One of the few plants that might actually have a chance under large evergreens!
- Spreads quickly with rich soil and adequate moisture. Leaves and stems have a vanilla-like fragrance when dried.
- Partial shade to full shade – a great groundcover for moist shady garden areas.
- Mature height 8 to 10", spread 24". Zone 5, maximum elevation 8,500 feet.

Japanese Forest Grass (*Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola') 

- This 2009 Perennial of the Year has soft, gracefully arching bright yellow blades with fine green stripes.
- The variegation and color of the leaves vary according to climate and light, from lime green in the shade to ranges of light yellow to bright yellow in the sun.
- Partial shade to full shade, foliage develops pink/red tints in the fall. Hardy to -20° F.
- Mature height 12 to 18", spread 18 to 36". Zone 4, maximum elevation 6,500 feet.

Hosta (*Hosta* spp.) 

- Hostas are often touted as the best shade-loving plants for the perennial garden.
- For best performance, Hosta plants prefer woodland garden conditions - full shade to a couple of hours of morning sun.
- Leaves vary from bright green to gold and even blue tones; variegation can result in an edging or center of white, cream or gold, or splashes of color.
- Mature height 12 to 24", spread 36"+. Zone 3 to 4, maximum elevation 8,000 feet.

Coral Bells (*Huechera* spp.)  

- Offering a dazzling array of foliage color, texture and shapes, Coral Bells will make a statement in your garden.
- They are excellent for the shady or semi-shady border and their bright foliage color can brighten a bed like a flower.
- Excellent edging plants, they also feature dainty flowers held aloft on airy stems.
- Partial shade to full shade; blooms late spring/summer.
- Mature height 12 to 18", spread 24". Zone 4, maximum elevation 8,000 feet.

Golden Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia* 'Aurea')  

- Also known as Moneywort, this cultivar is not as aggressive as the more common green type.
- Plants form a low mat of butter-yellow leaves, bearing bright golden-yellow flowers June - August. Great in pots and tubs, or cascading over walls.
- Partial shade to full shade, stems root along the ground wherever they touch. Tolerant of light foot traffic.
- Mature height 2 to 6", spread 2 to 6'. Zone 3, maximum elevation 7,500 feet.

Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)   

- Also known as Creeping Myrtle and Vinca, this popular groundcover is evergreen.
- One of the best groundcovers for shade, displaying large, violet-blue, pinwheel-shaped flowers, June – September, against glossy dark green leaves.
- Full sun to full shade, prefers an enriched, well-drained soil. Tolerant of light foot traffic.
- Mature height 4 to 8", spread 24 to 48". Zone 4, maximum elevation 8,500 feet.

Vines

Variegated Porcelain Berry Vine (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* 'Elegans')

- This elegant, self-clinging, deciduous vine is densely covered with small leaves delicately splashed with pink and white, and young pink shoots.
- In the autumn, as the foliage turns light yellow, porcelain blue fruits appear. The berries progress in color as they age, from green to pink, then turquoise blue and violet.
- Full sun to partial shade, needs a support structure upon which to grow.
- Mature height 10 to 20', spread 8 to 15'. Zone 4, maximum elevation 6,000 feet

Sweet Autumn Clematis (*Clematis terniflora*)

- Vigorous climbing vine displays billowy masses of fragrant flowers against dark green leaves.
- Grows rapidly in warm temperatures, its twining stems quickly covering fences, arbors and sheds.
- Flowers emerge late summer to fall, followed by silvery seed heads.
- Full sun to partial shade.
- Mature height and spread 15 to 30'. Zone 4, maximum elevation 7,500 feet.

Kintzley's Ghost Honeysuckle (*Lonicera reticulata* 'Kintzley's Ghost')

- This 2006 Plant Select® introduction is a rare heirloom native honeysuckle vine that has only recently been brought back into cultivation.
- Showy late spring yellow flowers followed by long lasting, circular bracts the size and color of silver dollars.
- Developed by William Kintzley at Iowa State University in the 1880's. Full sun to partial shade, easily grown in most any soil.
- Mature height 8 to 12', spread 3 to 6'. Zone 4, maximum elevation 8,000 feet.

Boston Ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata* 'Veitchii')  

- Clinging vine with purplish new growth. Insignificant flowers give way to small blue-black berries which are hidden by the foliage and not visible until fall leaf drop.
- Large, lobed leaves mature to green before turning a brilliant dark red in fall.
- Valued for quick cover of brick or stone walls, fences.
- Full sun to full shade, does well in dry to medium soils. Prefers eastern or northern exposures
- Mature height 30 to 45', spread 3 to 4'. Zone 4, maximum elevation 7,000 feet.

Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)



- Leaves emerge purplish in spring, mature to dull green in summer and change to attractive shades of purple and crimson red in fall.
- Insignificant flowers give way to small blue-black berries which are hidden by the foliage and not visible until fall leaf drop. Birds eat the berries.
- Full sun to full shade. Tolerant of a wide range of soils and urban conditions.
- Mature height 40 to 50', spread 3 to 4'. Zone 3, maximum elevation 8,500 feet.