

Discover the Perennial Garden

Shade gardens are those with little or no direct sunlight. Shade gardens may occur naturally or by design, under trees or alongside fences or buildings. Since few edible plants grow well under shady conditions, shade gardens are usually ornamental. Our Perennial/Shade Garden has a mixture of shade, dappled sunlight, and even areas with hot afternoon sun.

Look for:

- Check out the amazing diversity of ferns in this garden! How many different varieties do you see? Ferns have a wonderful texture and soft presence that provide contrast to other plants in a shade garden.
- Foliage, or interesting plant leaves, play an important role in the shade garden by adding variety in form and texture, as well as brightening areas with stripes of white, yellow, chartreus, or red.
- The two deciduous trees that are providing shade to this garden are types of Persimmons, which grow lovely orange fruit in the fall that need a bit of frost to become sweet. They are very ornamental trees when the leaves have fallen and they are decorated by orange Persimmons.

Garden Tips:

- With few exceptions, shade-tolerant plants perform best in well-drained, relatively fertile soil. Sandy soils and heavy clay soils will benefit by amending with organic matter such as compost, woodchips, or aged manure.
- Most woodland plants blossom very early in the season, and add delicate texture and more muted colors to the home landscape.
- Perennials flower for only a few weeks, so select plants with interesting seedpods, bark, or berries. Once the showy flowers are gone, these other features will provide continued diversity in your garden.

