

Looking after your plants

Newly planted shrubs require plenty of water until established.

It's better to water thoroughly from time to time rather than little and often. Avoid the heat of the day.

For ease and speed, especially if plants are packed together, use a complete fertiliser.

Cut off the dead flower heads of plants at regular intervals to promote new growth.

Your shady spot in winter

Create winter colour with snowdrops, hardy cyclamen, winter aconites and evergreens such as holly, ivy, box and yew.

Variegated leaves also look wonderful in winter.

More plants for your shady area

Moist Shade

Alchemilla mollis
(Lady's mantle) Herbaceous perennial.

Anemone nemorosa
(Wood anemone) Herbaceous perennial
Camellia species (avoid chalky soil)

Cyclamen coum
(Cyclamen) Bulb. Primula.
Herbaceous perennial.

Dry Shade

Aucuba japonica Shrub.

Heuchera
(Coral Flower) Herbaceous perennial.

Lamium Herbaceous perennial.

Pachysandra Ground - cover shrub.

Vinca (Periwinkle) Ground - cover shrub.

If you require any further information, please ask our outdoor plant advisors who will be very happy to help.

Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am – 4pm

Chessington Garden Centre

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Chessington

Plants for Shady Corners



Care & Advice Sheet

No. 22

Inspiration for your Home & Garden

A shaded area is a great opportunity to grow many marvellous plants. Whilst some plants do not flower well in shade, there are many varieties that originate from woodland so you can create fascinating effects with foliage. If your bed is shaded by overhanging trees, try bulbs to create colour in spring before they come into leaf. Whichever plants you choose, making the most of your shady corners is easy and needn't take long!

Preparing for your Shady Area

It's not hard to create the right conditions for plants to flourish, although obviously it will take longer to prepare the ground for a large bed rather than a tiny corner.

Weed thoroughly and dig over with a fork. If the soil feels heavy, it's especially important to loosen it up before planting.

To improve the soil before planting, add plenty of organic matter such as well-rotted manure, garden compost, planting compost or chipped bark, all available at our Garden Centre.

To create more light, cut back selected branches of over-hanging trees.

Plants for Shady Areas

Decide whether your bed is dry or moist, then choose a suitable mixture of shrubs, perennials (plants that grow in summer, die back in winter and grow again the following year), ferns and bulbs.

Moist Shade

Athyrium filix-femina
(Lady Fern)

Finely divided light green fronds. 30cm (1').

Hydrangea

Lace cap variety such as 'Bluewave'. Shrub. Violet-blue flowers in summer. 1.2m - 1.8m (4'-6').

Hosta varieties
(Plantain Lily)

Perennial. Grown mainly for their foliage which is large and comes in many variations. Purple or white flower spikes appear in summer. 15-90cm (6"-3').

Astilbe varieties
(False Goat's Beard)

Perennial. Red, pink or white plumes of flower during summer. 30-60cm (1-2').

Dry Shade

Daphne odora
'Aureomarginata'

Shrub, purple, pink and white fragrant flowers, dark, evergreen leaves edged yellow. 1.5m (5').

Bergenia varieties

Herbaceous perennial. Pink or white flowers in spring. Deep green glossy evergreen leaves. 30cm (1').

Pulmonaria varieties
(Lungwort)

Herbaceous perennial. Green or white splashed foliage with pink, blue or white flowers, in spring. 30cm (1').

Sarcococca confusa
(Christmas Box)

Shrub. Very fragrant white flowers in winter. Evergreen foliage. 90-120cm (3-4').

Galanthus
(Snowdrop)

Bulb. Interplant your bed with these for flowers in early spring.

Skimmia japonica
'Rubella'

Shrub. Deep red flower buds in autumn and winter open to white flowers. 1.5m (5').

How to Plant

Shrubs and Perennials

Prepare a planting hole before you take the plant out its pot. Dig the hole about twice the size of the pot.

Water the plant thoroughly and position it so that the top of the roots are just below the surface of the soil. Fill the hole around the plant with a mix of compost, fertiliser and soil.

Firm the soil and water well. Cover the soil surface face with about 5cm (2") of bark, cocoa shell, gravel or compost to help retain moisture.

Bulbs

If you want flowers in spring, plant bulbs in autumn. For summer flowers, plant bulbs in spring. We have an excellent selection in our shop.

Plant several bulbs at a depth three to five times their height in one large hole to save time.

In wet soil, a handful of grit in the bottom of the hole will improve drainage, in dry soil, a layer of compost will help retain moisture.