Plants for Dry Shade

One of the challenges of gardening can be dealing with shade, particularly dry shade under the canopy of trees where rainwater is deflected away and plants need to compete for moisture, root space, nutrients, even airflow. Narrow spaces between buildings or under north-facing eaves offer the same challenge. Below are some plants for dry shade or part shade.

Ajuga
Alchemilla, Lady’s mantle
Aquilegia, Columbine
Bergenia
Brunnera
Clematis
Convolvulus
Corianthus
Dienecur, Bleeding heart
Digitalis, Foxglove
Geranium (perennial)
Helleborus, Lenten rose
Hemerocallis, Daylily
Helenium, Coral bells
Hosta
Lamium
Liriope
Lonicera
Monarda
Pachysandra
Polygonatum, Solomon’s seal
Thalictrum, Meadow rue

Yucca minor, Periwinkle
Walnut, Barren strawberry

Purposeful Plants

Name Your Challenge

Native plants can handle some of the most challenging landscape problems:
- **Low spots or wet spots, deep-rooted native or prairie plants can usually withstand extremes of wet to dry moisture better than most landscape plants.**
- **Dry spots surrounded by hardpan.** Native plants need a minimum of watering and maintenance.
- **Dry shade under trees.** Root competition can be troublesome under trees, but there are plants that can take it.

Native and Recommended Plants

There are lots of lists of trees, shrubs and perennials for Nebraska at plantnebraska.org/your-yard/what-to-plant. There’s also season-specific articles, videos, tips on getting kids outdoors, hum-tos and much more. Sample plant lists:

**PERENNIALS - full sun**
- Aconitum, 3-4’
- Achillea, 3-4’
- Alcea rosea, 3-6’
- Amorpha canescens, 4’
- Asclepias 2-4’
- Aster, 3-4’
- Baptisia lactea, 3-48’
- Buddleja, 3-7’
- Centranthus ruber, 2-3’
- Echinacea, 3-6’
- Esparatorium dulcam, 2-4’
- Fallopia auberti, 12’
- Hibiscus, 3-5’
- Ipomopsis aggregata, 4’
- Iris sibirica & spuria, 2-3’
- Kniphofia cactoformis, 3’
- Lepepedia, 3’
- Liatris, 3-5’
- Paeonia, 2-3’
- Papaver orientale, 2-3’
- Penstemon, 2-3’
- Phlox, 3-4’
- Rattisida, 4’
- Rudbeckia fulgida, 3-4’
- Senna hebecarpa, 4-6’
- Silene regia, 3-4’
- Solidago, 3-4’

**PERENNIALS - part shade**
- Aconitum, 2-3’
- Callicarpa dichotoma, 3-5’
- Chelone glabra ‘Black Ace’, 3-6’
- Delphinium, 3-5’
- Filipendula, 3-5’
- Ligularia, 4-5’
- Lobelia, 3-4’
- Lysimachia, 2-3’
- Monarda, 3-4’
- Thalictrum, 2-5’

**PLANTS for Pollinators**

*LATE SUMMER*
- Achillea, yarrow
- Agastache
- Allium, onion
- Artemisia, sage
- Asclepias, milkweed
- Calycanthus, sweet shrub
- Carex, sedges
- Choris, Fringe tree
- Corylus, hazel nut
- Delphinium
- Elymus hyaicus, bottlebrush grass
- Eryngium, sea holly
- Eupatorium, Joe pye plant
- Gaillardia
- Helianthus, false sunflower
- Leptospermum, bush clover
- Liatris, blushing grass
- Lobelia
- Monarda, bee balm
- Oenothera, evening primrose
- Phlox, deer betty
- Solidago, goldenrod
- Sporobolus, prairie dropseed
- Thlesperum, greenhead
- Vernonia, ironweed

*AUTUMN*
- Agastache
- Aster
- Boltonia
- Calamintha, calamint
- Chelone, turkweed
- Cirium, thistle
- Eupatorium, Joe pye plant
- Helianthus, sneezeweed
- Helianthus, sunflower
- Indian paintbrush
- Lobelia
- Rudbeckia, black-eyed Susan
- Salvia
- Sedum
- Senecio
- Solidago, goldenrod
- Solidaster, False aster
- Symphyotrichum, aster
- Verbena

*FIBRUM*

**Plants for Salt Soil**

Plants along roads or sidewalks often suffer from too much salt, usually from de-icers. The easiest solution is to use more salt-tolerant plants:

- Blanketflower
- Blazing Star
- Bluebells
- Coreflower
- Coralbells
- Daylily
- Evening Primrose
- Feather Reedgrass
- Globe Thistle
- Grama (opposite)
- Hardy Hibiscus
- Indiangrass
- Iris
- Oenothera
- Penstemon
- Purple Poppymallow
- Switchgrass
- Yarrow

Plants for Clay Soil

Perennials are by definition plants that live for more than 2 years, but most live much longer. Below are some that can live for 10 years or more.

- Aster
- Asphodel
- Balloon flower
- Beebalm, Monarda
- Black-eyed Susan, Rudbeckia
- Bleeding heart
- Campanula
- Catmint, Nepeta
- Culver’s root, Veronicastrum
- Daylily, Hemerocallis
- Dwarf blue indigo, Baptisia
- Evening primrose
- Fern
- Hosta
- Iris
- Joe pye weed, Eupatorium
- Lady’s mantle, Alchemilla
- Leadplant, Amorpha (opposite)
- Lenten roses, Heliebore
- Peony
- Sedges
- Yellow, Achillea