

How to

CREATE A SHADE GARDEN

For centuries, people have sought a quiet space to contemplate the world, away from the harsh summer sun. A garden in the shade provides this haven, with flowers illuminated by the soft, dappled light, dramatic foliage and bold ferns. Trickling or running water will add another dimension to your shade garden.

Planting

Shade gardens need never be dull when there are so many beautiful shapes and colours to work with. There are plenty of stunning foliage plants ideal for low light situations, their large, shiny leaves designed to catch the light.

While not absent, flowers are fewer in shade gardens, as they often bloom better with filtered light. To improve soil in dry shade gardens, dig in generous amounts of compost, peat, mulch and any well-rotted organic material. This, along with an irrigation system, will allow you to grow a wider range of plants.



Palmers

How to plant

The best time to plant in dry shade is in autumn and winter so plants are established before the dry summer months. For damp shade, any time of year is suitable as long as plants are watered during dry periods.

Before planting, dig the hole twice the width and depth of the plant's root ball. Add **Tui Blood and Bone** or **Poultry Compost** to the planting hole and mix in well. Soak the plant in a bucket of water before planting. Remove the plant from its container and run a sharp knife down the root ball in several places to encourage new roots. Place the plant in the hole at the same depth of the original plant's container. Add soil, tread down lightly and water well.

Palmer's handy tip: Plants grow slower in the shade, so start with larger plants, for quicker results.

Feeding and mulching

Use **Sheep Pellets** and **Tui Compost** at the recommended rate in spring. Water the fertiliser in well. Mulching is very important, especially in dry shade, as it aids in keeping weeds down and retaining soil moisture. Mulch in late winter or early spring and again in mid-summer.

Watering

Regular watering will be required to get plants established. Deep watering once a week is more effective than light watering. Installing an in-ground irrigation system can make the job less labour intensive and guarantee success – especially in dry shade. Soaker hoses are easy to install and will water plants directly into the roots without any wastage.

Pests

The biggest pests in a shady garden can be slugs and snails. They love the soft leaves of shade loving hosta, Chatham Island forget-me-not and clivia. Sprinkle the garden regularly with slug and snail pellets. We recommend **Tui Quash** because it is safe to use around kids and pets.

What to plant

Trees

Trees create a cool, shady, restful place to escape the summer heat. We recommend maples (acer), camellia, rangiora (brachyglottis), cabbage tree (cordyline), dogwood (cornus), puka (meryta sinclarii), pseudopanax, rhododendron, nikau palm (rhopalostylis), rimu (dacrydium), and viburnum. Or choose from our great range of deciduous trees for summer shade and autumn colour.

Shrubs

Shrubs flower better with filtered light rather than dense shade. We recommend Chinese lantern (abutilon), winter sweet (chimonanthus), corokia, aucuba, azaleas, boronia, English box (buxus), camellia, carex, Mexican orange blossom (choisya), sago palm (cycas), daphne, wax flower (eriostemon), escallonia, fatsia, fuchsia, grisilinia, hydrangea, calico bush (kalmia), mock orange (philadelphus), lily of the valley shrub (pieris), rhododendron, philodendron xanadu and vireya rhododendrons.

Ferns

Ferns thrive in shade as long as there is plenty of moisture. We recommend hen and chicken fern (asplenium bulbiferum), black mamaku (medullaris cyathea), wheki fern (dicksonia squarrosa) and silver fern (cyathea dealbata) - just a few that cover both tree and ground ferns.

Climbers

Climbers prefer a cool, moist soil for their roots and their head in the sun. We recommend Chilean coral vine (berberadopsis), clematis, hardenbergia, ivy (hedera), fruit salad plant (monstera), climbing rata (metrosideros carminea), Chilean bellflower (lapageria), Madagascar jasmine (stephanotis), star jasmine (trachelospermum) and tecomanthe.



If anything you buy from Palmer's fails to grow, return it and we'll happily replace it.

 Palmer's

What to plant

Bulbs and perennials

Bulbs and perennials are perfect for planting under large deciduous trees and shrubs. Large leafed perennials require damp moist conditions. We recommend agapanthus, carpet bugle (ajuga), fuchsia, lady's mantle (alchemilla mollis), granny's bonnet (aquilegia), Japanese anemone hybrids, renga renga lily (arthropodium), astilbe, begonia, bergenia, clivia, corydalis, cyclamen, tropical impatiens, pratia, heuchera and hostas.

Summer flowering bulbs are the best to grow in dry situations. We recommend amaryllis (belladonna lily), freesia, nerine, and scilla.

Annuals

We recommend Canterbury bells (campanula), cineraria, digitalis (foxglove), busy lizzie (impatiens), mimulus, forget-me-not (myosotis), pansy, primula, and viola.

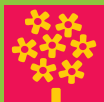
Please ask at your local Palmers store for more information on plants that are suited to the conditions of your garden.



This 'how to guide' has been produced to provide basic information and our experienced staff are available to answer any questions that you may have. Because this guide is of a general nature, neither Palmers nor its staff are responsible for the application of the information, as the contents may need to be modified for individual projects and site applications.

for more information go to
www.palmers.co.nz

or ask one of our expert staff
0800 PALMERS



Palmers