

in the garden by Stephen and Kristin Pategas



STEPHEN & KRISTIN PATEGAS

Lovin' The Shade

The creation of a viable garden in the shade of a tree is a challenge. The first step in tackling such a task acknowledges the challenges. There is dry shade where the canopy blocks light rains and the tree roots draw out the moisture, outcompeting the roots of other plants. Planting amongst the roots without damaging them and causing

future spouting can be a struggle, so we suggest using small containers of plants that creep. Check whether the tree is evergreen or deciduous since light levels increase dramatically if leaves drop. Also make note of the shifting shade pattern as the seasons progress between winter and summer solstice. Sunburned plants ain't pretty.

The second step selects the plants for the shady and perhaps part time full sun conditions. Most flowering plants bloom weakly if at all in the shade so search out plants with foliage color and texture to complement the rare shade bloomers.

The final step celebrates the results of careful plant selection - a shade garden of texture, flowers, and colorful



The dwarf Camellia hiemalis 'Shishigashira' takes shade or sun.



Anise/Illicium parviflorum makes a great hedge in shade or sun.



A bench in the rear corner attracts the eye in this shade garden.

foliage. The garden is also lower maintenance with fewer weeds. As leaves drop from above it is self-mulching. Then as the leaves decompose they provide nutrients for the plants. Finally, take a break in the shade on the bench you thoughtfully provided. ♦

A Selection Of Plants For Shade Or Part Shade

* - Protect from the cold

C - Container plant

T - Transition shade to sun

V - Variegated foliage

Understory trees:

Cercis Canadensis/Red Bud
Chionanthus virginicus/Fringe tree (T)
Ilex vomitoria/Yaupon holly (T)

Tall plants:

Alpinia zerumbet 'Variegata'/
Variegated shell ginger (V)
Camellia japonica/Camellia
Camellia sasanqua/Sasanqua
camellia (T)
Chamaedorea microspadix/Parlor
palm
Cyathea cooperi/Australian tree
fern*
Dichorisandra thyrsiflora/Blue
ginger
Fatsia japonica/Fatsia
Hamellia patens/Firebush* (T)
Hydrangea quercifolia/Oakleaf
hydrangea
Illicium parviflorum/Yellow anise (T)
Justicia carnea/Jacobinea*
Osmanthus fragrans/Osmanthus/
Tea olive
Podocarpus macrophyllus/Yew
podocarpus (T)
Rhapis excelsa/Lady palm
Rhododendron austrinum/Florida
flame azalea
Rhododendron canescens/Piedmont
azalea
Rhododendron spp./Azalea species
Serenoa repens/Saw palmetto

Low shrubs and groundcovers:

Aspidistra elatior/Cast iron plant
Aspidistra lurida 'Ginga'/Milky Way
cast iron plant (V)
Athyrium niponicum 'Pictum'/
Japanese painted fern* (V)
Bromeliad spp./Bromeliad
species (V)
Caladium bicolor/Caladium (C, V)
Camellia hiemalis 'Shishigashira'/
Shishigashira camellia (C, T)
Cephalotaxus harringtonia
'Prostrata'/Prostrate yew
Cyrtomium falcatum/Holly fern
Dryopteris erythrosora/Autumn fern
Ilex vomitoria 'Schellings'/Dwarf
yaupon holly (T)
Kaempferia spp./Peacock plant
species (V)
Liriope 'Emerald Goddess'/
Evergreen giant liriope (T)
Nandina domestica 'Harbour
Dwarf'/Harbour Dwarf heavenly
bamboo (T)
Ophiopogon japonicus/Mondo grass
Ophiopogon japonicus 'Nana'/Dwarf
mondo grass
Philodendron 'Xanadu'/Xanadu
philodendron* (C)
Pilea cadierei nana/Aluminum
plant* (V)
Rhododendron spp./Azalea species
Schefflera arboricola 'Trinette'/
Trinette schefflera* (T, V)
Solenostemon scutellarioides/
Coleus* (C, V)
Strobilanthes dyerianus/Purple
shield* (C, V)
Trachelospermum asiaticum/Dwarf
Asian jasmine (T, some V)
Zamia pumila/Coontie (T)

Kristin and Stephen Pategas design landscapes and garden at their home and business Hortus Oasis in Winter Park. Contact them at garden@hortusoasis.com or visit www.hortusoasis.com and www.pategaionplants.com.

All photography by Stephen G. Pategas/Hortus Oasis